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TODAY

10P

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PLUS: Dr Thomas Stuttard's medical briefing

FRIDAY

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Whitney Houston goes gospel
PLUS: The Valerie Grove interview

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In the Magazine

PLUS: WEEKEND
CAR 96, WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND THE 7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY

Attempt to defuse Euro-row

Clarke to confront sceptics in Commons

By Philip Webster, Political Editor, and Arthur Leathley

KENNETH CLARKE will face his party's Eurosceptics today in a gamble designed to quell the renewed Tory turmoil over the single currency and turn attention back to his Budget tomorrow.

After another day of ministerial disarray over the Government's plans for handling its latest Euro-crisis, Mr Clarke's appearance before MPs was announced by the Treasury in a partial climbdown to defuse a row that was threatening to get out of control.

It means that 24 hours before he stands up in the Commons for his Budget speech, the Chancellor will have to face questions from hostile backbenchers about European monetary union regulations on which, they say, he and the Prime Minister have been trying to stifle debate.

In a further move to appease the sceptics, he will make plain that he will withhold Britain's agreement from any deal at the Dublin meeting of European finance ministers on December 2 and not agree until the British Parliament has finished its scrutiny of the measures.

Ministers are also likely to agree today that the Commons debate planned to precede the Dublin summit next month will be extended to two full days to enable extra scrutiny of the single currency regulations. That is another concession to the alliance of pro-Europeans and sceptics which has come together to attack the Government's refusal to allow a separate debate on monetary union. However, John Major's refusal to allow a debate this Friday in advance of the finance ministers' meeting has been maintained. Today he will meet Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the 1922 Committee of Tory MPs, to discuss the demands for extra scrutiny.

Mr Clarke's decision to go before MPs today was hailed as a victory by some leading Eurosceptics last night, with one calling it a capitulation by "game, set and match". It means they will get the chance, so far steadfastly denied, to question the Chancellor himself on the regulations. However, others were not placated. John Redwood will demand of Mr Clarke today an explicit declaration in all the documents being considered on December 2 that they will not affect Britain if it is outside the single currency.

Mr Major and Mr Clarke decided on the Chancellor's statement yesterday morning. Mr Clarke wants not only to focus his party on his Budget but also is angry at what he sees as misleading reports about the regulations to be discussed at the finance ministers' meeting. His irritation grew at the weekend with reports suggesting he had withheld

from MPs other papers, allegedly showing that Brussels would continue to interfere in Britain's economic policy even if it remained outside the single currency. The Chancellor believes he has been the subject of "farcical misrepresentation".

In announcing his Commons statement last night, the Treasury said that Mr Clarke wanted to "correct misleading reports that have emerged". The statement said that Mr Clarke also wanted to repeat the points made in his letter to MPs last Friday, which sought to reassure them that no binding decisions affecting Britain's economy would be taken at the European finance ministers' meeting (Ecofin) on December 2 and at the Dublin summit on December 13. He also wanted "to spell out the Government's position on the issues" under discussion at the meetings.

His statement was announced after a day of conflicting signals about the Government's intentions. Ian Lang, the Board of Trade President and one of Mr Major's closest Cabinet supporters, gave a clear hint at lunchtime that Commons business might be changed to allow a debate on Friday, instead of the

Cautious Budget

The City expects Kenneth Clarke to deliver a cautious Budget tomorrow, offering no more than a 1p cut in income tax and using October's bumper haul of tax receipts to announce cuts in his forecasts for public borrowing. Pages 2, 56

one planned on tourism. He said on BBC Radio's *The World This Week*: "Anything is possible, the House of Commons can adapt itself. There is, for example, a debate on Friday on tourism and it may be that some people think that can be deferred."

Within minutes of the interview, government sources were making plain that Mr Lang had been making a "freelance" suggestion and that a Friday debate was still not a serious runner as far as the Prime Minister was concerned.

Then came the Treasury statement. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, capitalised on the confusion, saying: "The Government's position seems to be changing from hour to hour. It is clear there is chaos at the heart of a Government which is a direct result of weak leadership."

William Rees-Mogg and Peter Riddell, page 24
Leading article and Letters, page 25

Cardinal condemns pop devil music

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

ONE of the Roman Catholic world's most powerful figures has branded rock music an "instrument of the devil" and urged young people not to listen to it for fear of endangering their souls.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the modern successor to the Inquisition, said there were "diabolical and satanic messages" in much of today's heavy metal music. But he also warned the young against the "subliminal" satanic influence

to be found in songs by such groups as the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd, Queen, Led Zeppelin and the Eagles.

Cardinal Ratzinger, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, is considered the highest moral authority in the Vatican after the Pope, at whose side he has been for almost all of the latter's 18-year reign. His stern admonishment and even ex-communication of dissident theologians has earned him a fearsome reputation.

Speaking yesterday at a Mass marking the feast of St Cecilia, the

patron saint of music, Cardinal Ratzinger agreed that there were many good things in modern pop music, but added that there was also a great deal that "endangers the human soul". He urged heavy metal bands in particular to "purify themselves".

Vatican officials identified some of the "worst offenders" as Alice Cooper, Black Sabbath and AC/DC, whose initials they claimed referred not to alternating current or even bisexuality, but to the satanic phrase "Anti-Christ, Death to Christ".

SAS suspends troops over TV documentary

By Michael Evans

FIVE members of the Territorial Army's SAS regiment have been suspended after taking part in a television documentary series about the unit. The men, from 21 SAS, appeared in *balacabras* in SAS - *The Soldiers' Story*, in the summer.

Former members of 22 SAS, the regular Army regiment, also helped to reconstruct some of the most dramatic SAS operations of the last 25 years. About 20 serving and former members of the TA SAS were paid £100 a day as extras in the TV series. Six of them are understood to have resigned.

The five suspended TA members are understood to have been ordered to retrace the selection course if they wish to rejoin the regiment. All have appealed and their cases are to be reviewed by the Army Board.



"How many times do I have to tell you not to brush your teeth before bed?"

Toothpaste worry

The British Dental Association emphasised the dangers of swallowing fluoride toothpaste after manufacturers paid £1,000 to a boy whose teeth were damaged. Page 8

Painting doubts

Fresh evidence has been unearthed casting doubt on one of the National Gallery's most prized Rubens, *Samson and Delilah*. Page 7

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Britons tell of hijack jet crash escape

By Inigo Gilmore
in St Denis, Reunion
Daniel McGrory
and Emma Wilkins

TWO British survivors described last night their remarkable escape from the wreckage of a hijacked plane that ran out of fuel and crashed in the Indian Ocean.

Up to 120 passengers died when the Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 767 was torn into three pieces as it tried to crashland in the sea just 500 yards off the Comoros Islands.

Lizzie Anders, 32, and Katie Hayes, 31, told how they struggled out of their seat belts as the ruptured fuselage filled with water and slid under the waves.

In a telephone call to her father last night Miss Anders told how the five-hour hijack ended when Flight ET 961 suddenly dipped towards the sea.

"It was the crash that saved her," Chris Anders said last night. "She and Katie were at the back of the plane and as it hit the surface the tail broke off. Both managed to unbuckle their safety belts and swim to the surface. Lizzie is obviously distraught by what happened. She has a broken leg and will stay with Katie, who has a punctured lung."

Last night both women were together in a ward in the Felix Guyon Hospital in St Denis, capital of Reunion. Mr Anders, a retired surgeon, spoke of his "overwhelming relief and gratitude" to the holiday-makers who saw the crash and used every available craft to brave high seas and rescue the 55 survivors.

Among them were two of the hijack gang, who had just been freed from a prison in Addis Ababa, where the flight began. One of the hijackers burst into the plane's cockpit

Continued on page 3, col 1

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Tunnel disruption may last six months



A wrecked wagon leaving the tunnel in France yesterday

By JONATHAN PRYNN

EUROTUNNEL said yesterday that disruption to passenger services would continue for up to six months, as the final pieces of fire-twisted wreckage were removed from the Channel Tunnel. Structural engineers who had the first chance to examine the worst-affected 600 metre stretch are expected to recommend replacing dozens of concrete casing segments damaged by the 1,000C heat.

Eurolunnel, which initially expected to have trains running the day after last Monday's fire, conceded yesterday that it was having difficulty persuading the Channel Tunnel safety authority to agree to even a restricted passenger service. The stumbling block is how an evacuation could be carried out in the event of a second accident in the undamaged north tunnel.

The scale of the clean-up became clearer as specialist Eurotunnel repair teams worked to remove the most badly damaged nine lorry

shuttle wagons and a £4 million locomotive from the south tunnel. A priority will be to work on the short section of buckled track where the fire was at its most intense. Workers also began cleaning soot from miles of communication and power cables and assessing how to repair the concrete lining close to the most damaged section of the tunnel.

Some of the worst-affected 1.5 metre concrete segments will have to be replaced by spares left over when the tunnel was built in the early 1990s. A 100 metre section of the tunnel was heavily scorched in the fire, which raged for eight hours.

Eurolunnel sources said that although the damage was repairable it was too long to say how long services would be disrupted. "It could be three weeks, it could be six months," said one. An engineering expert close to the original construction of the tunnel said: "They will be doing pretty well if they have everything up and running normally in time for next year's summer season."

Members of the safety authority

have been in constant touch with the company over the weekend, although there is still no agreement on when passenger and lorry freight services can resume. Container freight services started again on Thursday and dozens of Eurostar and shuttle trains carrying Eurolunnel and safety authority staff have been through.

A spokesman for Eurolunnel said that although services would not resume until the authority was happy with safety precautions, the company had the legal right to go ahead without the authority's express permission. "Obviously, it will be best for public confidence if everybody was satisfied that everything was all right," he said.

The company was last night studying computer-simulated models of an evacuation during repairs to the south tunnel to help to decide whether to keep an emergency shuttle train on permanent standby inside the damaged tunnel.

The Eurolunnel source said that in its original projections had forecast a fire once every nine years. Following

research into fires on cross-Channel ferries and other European train tunnels, it had reduced its projection to every year. He said that engine innovations such as fuel injection made fires more likely. "Basically, we were expecting a fire from day one," he said.

Ferry operators and airlines said they had noticed a sharp but not dramatic increase in demand for services to France since the closure of the tunnel. British Airways said demand for its business class service to Paris was particularly strong while Eurostar remains out of action. A spokesman for P&O, the largest cross-Channel ferry operator, said it had increased sailings between Dover and Calais by half to 30 a day to cope with the pre-Christmas rush while the tunnel remained shut. With Stena, the second biggest ferry company, increasing its services to 27 crossings a day, there were no reports of queues at Dover yesterday. "There will be more than enough capacity to meet the demand," a P&O spokesman said.

Chancellor expected to phase out extra benefit for single parents

Tories urge Clarke to deliver Budget for family values

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE is expected to bow to backbench pressure and put the family at the forefront of the Budget tomorrow.

Foremost among several measures to centre attention on the importance of the family, the Chancellor is expected to announce that he will phase out extra benefits for single parents. About one million lone parents on income support receive a £5.20 weekly premium, which will be dropped for new claimants from next April.

The move comes amid heightened Tory hopes that spending cuts will pave the way for £2 billion worth of tax reductions and lead to an upturn in the party's fortunes.

However, Mr Clarke was urged yesterday by Norman Lamont, his predecessor as Chancellor, to ignore MPs and instead "do what is right for the economy". Mr Lamont said that Mr Clarke had to keep "an iron grip on inflation. Now is not the time for an excessive giveaway. That is not what the economy needs."

The cut in benefit for single parents, which would save an initial £270 million, would lead to further spending reductions over time as the number of claimants fell. The changes, which would not affect the £6.30 weekly payment to all single parents regardless of income, would



Lamont called for an iron grip on inflation

coincide with the merging of the one-parent benefit with child benefit.

They were attacked yesterday by Harriet Harman, Shadow Social Security Secretary, as "the wrong way to encourage lone parents into work and away from benefit."

An alliance of pro-family Tories and religious organisations has pressed Mr Clarke to increase the married couple's allowance, which they claim has fallen in value over the last six years while payments to cohabitants have increased. They believe there are powerful political benefits in a strong pro-family stance as Tony Blair renews attempts

to establish Labour as the defender of family values.

Many Conservative MPs are pinning their hopes on a reduction of income tax by 1p, costing the Treasury £1.3 billion initially, and a possible widening of the 20p band to take more low earners out of the standard rate of tax, currently 24p. However, even a £500 widening of the band would cost an estimated £300 million. Tories are also hopeful that increased allowances would take the lowest paid workers out of tax. However, above-inflation increases cost an estimated £430 million for each £100 rise.

Although the Chancellor is thought to have pared down the £268 billion spending bill during negotiations with Cabinet colleagues, he has been forced to agree to increased spending on health, education and prisons. Even those pressing for a giveaway Budget acknowledge that the Chancellor has little room for manoeuvre and will be forced to recoup some of his generosity through other tax-raising measures.

Past pledges to increase duty on fuel by 5 per cent above inflation are expected to net £90 million. Smokers are also likely to have to pay more, while promises to abolish inheritance tax and capital gains tax have put Mr Clarke under pressure to increase the



Clarke: under pressure from pro-family Tories to attack Labour's claim to be the defender of the family

threshold on which tax is paid on legacies and to reduce tax on capital gains.

Mr Clarke has repeatedly attempted to play down expectations amid signs that economic recovery is expected to push inflation higher. Eco-

nomics analysts and big business have urged a cautious Budget to prevent further interest rate increases following the 0.25 per cent rise announced this month.

£3bn giveaway, page 56

Blizzards bring road chaos to the North

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

BLIZZARDS swept across much of northern Britain yesterday bringing chaos to roads but joy to winter sports enthusiasts on the first weekend of the Scottish skiing season.

Drifting snow on the Yorkshire Dales, North York Moors and the Yorkshire Wolds kept the emergency services at full stretch rescuing stranded motorists. North Yorkshire Police said: "The area is littered with abandoned vehicles. The Dales are a no-go area and everyone is working flat out to ensure no one is left stranded overnight."

In Scotland motorists were warned to avoid high-level roads after several were closed by drifts. Dumfries and Galloway Police appealed for motorists only to make essential journeys. A spokesman said: "The conditions are atrocious from Dumfries northwards with deep snow and abandoned vehicles."

About 1,000 skiers and snowboarders turned out at the Lecht Ski Centre, near Tomintoul, over the weekend. While snow was plentiful in the Cairngorms area, the other three Scottish ski centres did not have enough. "We are absolutely delighted to be able to offer good standard skiing so early in the winter," a spokesman for the Lecht said. Kelly Stewart, 12, of Consett, Co Durham, suffered a fractured skull and was yesterday in the high dependency unit at Newcastle General Hospital after her makeshift sledge was in collision with a taxi.

Forecast, page 28

Grammar schools claim best results

Grammar schools claimed yesterday that government test results proved that they were stretching able teenagers more effectively than comprehensive schools. Almost 38 per cent of 14-year-olds reaching top levels in national curriculum science tests came from selective schools, which are attended by only 4 per cent of pupils. In English, 20 per cent of top levels went to grammar pupils and 21 per cent in mathematics. The 161 grammars will use the findings to protect their future under a Labour government.

Margaret Dewar, chairman of the National Grammar Schools Association, said of the summer's tests: "There is a disproportionate number of high scores in grammar schools. For them to have 29 per cent of the best science students suggests that they are stretching the most able more effectively than other schools."

Teenage girl murdered

Beth Robinson, who was 17, was sexually assaulted and strangled on a deserted shortcut home near Offa's Dyke. Her body was found yesterday propped against a wall 200 yards from where she lived. Police believe she was attacked after a night out in Monmouth. Gwent and are interviewing friends who had visited pubs and clubs with her hours before she was murdered.

Move to save night sky

The Government is ready to consider legislation to reduce light pollution, which increasingly obscures the night sky. Today a seminar organised by the Department of the Environment at the Dorchester Hotel in London will hear John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, say that he is willing to consider changes in the law and in planning guidance to local authorities.

Advert goes for a burton

An advertisement for Burton's menswear that features three men urinating in a line to symbolise the demise of the traditional gentleman has been withdrawn. Burton's advertising agency Mellers Reay was told by the Committee of Advertising Practice, the Advertising Standards Authority's advisory wing, that the poster was likely to cause offence if displayed in public places.

West in prison move

Rosemary West, the serial killer, has been moved temporarily to Holloway Prison, north London, from top-security Durham Prison. The move is believed to be a routine matter to facilitate family visits. West, 42, is serving life for the murders of ten young women and girls, including her daughter Heather, 16, and stepdaughter Charmaine, 8.



Mysteries of China

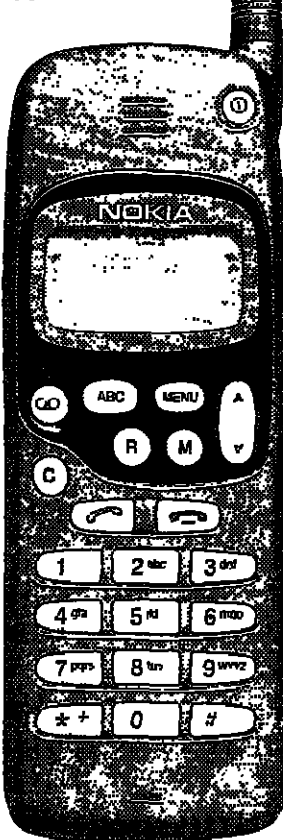
A bronze figure from Guangzhou (circa 1200BC-1000BC), pictured with the British Museum curator Oliver Moore, is among exhibits at the "Mysteries of Ancient China" show. The exhibition, which was made possible with sponsorship from The Times, offers a £9 family ticket for readers. The exhibition continues until January 5.

Heathrow keeps record

Heathrow is still the busiest international airport, latest figures show. Heathrow handled 46.81 million international passengers in 1995 compared to Frankfurt (30.2m) and Hong Kong (28.66m). However, Chicago's O'Hare airport handled most passengers (67.25m) when domestic customers are also taken into account, according to figures from Airline Business magazine.

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IRA threatens wave of violence over demands

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA is planning to unleash a wave of violence in Northern Ireland and on mainland Britain if John Major fails to respond to its terms for a new ceasefire.

Republicans made clear over the weekend that the Prime Minister has a "window of opportunity" until Christmas to guarantee Sinn Féin a place at the multi-party talks at Stormont after an IRA ceasefire. If Mr Major fails to respond positively the IRA will trigger detailed plans to attack police and Army barracks in Northern Ireland and to assassinate members of the judiciary.

The IRA's tactics emerged over the weekend as republicans met in private in Athboy, Co Meath, in the Irish Republic to endorse a four-point plan drawn up by Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, and John Hume, the leader of the SDLP. The plan, which Mr Hume has passed to Downing Street, calls on the Government to:

- Allow Sinn Féin into the Stormont talks soon after a renewed ceasefire;
- Set an "indicative time-frame" for the talks so that they move to substantive issues quickly;
- Make clear that terrorist weapons will be dealt with in line with the Mitchell Report which calls for arms to be decommissioned once there is progress in political negotiations;
- Introduce confidence-building measures, including the release of some terrorist prisoners and reforms to the RUC.

Mr Hume, the leading member of Sinn Féin, said that he would "move



McGuinness: pressure on Major over ceasefire

heaven and earth" to restore the IRA ceasefire if Mr Major responded positively to the demands. Mr Adams refused to be drawn on what would happen if Mr Major refused to respond. But speaking after the private Sinn Féin conference on Saturday, which was attended by leading members of the IRA, Mr Adams said: "John Major's reluctance in responding to what we put to him all makes the task much more difficult. The quicker Mr Major responds the better."

Ministers have been placed in a difficult position by Sinn Féin's demands. If they accept the list they will infuriate Unionists who will then walk out of the Stormont talks. If they fail to go some way to endorsing the demands, which are supported by the Irish Government, they risk being blamed for squandering a renewed chance for peace.

One senior Irish official said: "Sinn Féin are serious

about this and there is room for a ceasefire. But I have more trust in the IRA's willingness to embrace the process than the British. There is all to play for at the moment. We could have peace or, if the British do not respond, we could have full scale conflict."

British ministers are keen to respond to Sinn Féin, but they appear to be determined to do so in a way that will not alienate Unionists. Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland political development minister, said yesterday that the Government wanted republicans to join the multi-party talks at Stormont.

But he insisted that the IRA would have to declare a "genuine and unequivocal" ceasefire before Sinn Féin could take its place.

Mr Ancram told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*: "I hope that the IRA will realise that a genuine ceasefire is the right way forward for the people of Northern Ireland, many of whom are represented by Sinn Féin."

Mr Ancram made clear that ministers would subject a renewed IRA ceasefire to rigorous analysis to ensure that it was not just a tactical ploy. He said: "We have to look not just at the words of a ceasefire but at the actions that surround it. Any action that suggested that the ceasefire was tactical, rather than for good, would not lead to an invitation" to the talks.

□ The Irish go to the polls on Thursday to vote on a change to the constitution making it easier for judges to refuse bail (Audrey Magee writes). Right and left-wing groups are calling for a "no" vote.

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Aircraft crashed within yards of doctors

Holidaymakers rushed to help survivors as an international drama ended 100 yards from their beach. Inigo Gilmore in reunion island and Emma Wilkins report

SURVIVORS of the hijacked Ethiopian aircraft described yesterday how holidaymakers at a five-star beach resort in the Comoros Islands played a key role in saving lives. As rescue teams searched for bodies believed to be still strapped into their seats in the submerged fuselage of flight ET961, details emerged of the rescue operation.

Guests at Le Galawa Beach Hotel on Grand Comore were sipping their afternoon drinks on the beach when the aircraft appeared overhead, dipped a wing in the water and then crashed about 100 yards from the shore.

Holidaymakers, including a group of French and South African doctors, stood stunned for a few seconds before launching a flotilla of dinghies and rafts to rescue survivors. The doctors, who were dressed in their swimming costumes, tended to the injured and dying on the beach. The hotel's conference suite was turned into a makeshift morgue.

Franklin Huddle, the US consul in Bombay, who survived the crash with his spectacles intact, told how he clung to a passing windsurfer's board before he was rescued by hotel staff. "I thought my head was about to hit the water," said Mr Huddle, 53, who was sitting next to his wife in the business class section when the aircraft crashed.

"When the plane hit the

water, it hit gently. There were a couple of good-sized lurches but not too violent, and then a hard swerve. On impact with the water the plane broke in two," he said. Mr Huddle suffered minor leg injuries. His wife also escaped without serious injury.

Lior Fuchs, from Israel, said he thought he was about to die when the captain announced he had lost an engine and was going to attempt an emergency landing. "I felt a great jolt and was thrown out of my chair. Water came into the plane. Somehow I got out, fighting my way up through water and pieces of debris."

Mr Fuchs helped to save a woman who was trapped in her seat with a baby. "I saw a woman with a baby who was caught. I swam to her, freed them from the wreckage and inflated the life preserver for her and for the baby. We got up together on a boat," he said. "There were a few more survivors and I think two thirds of the plane was floating."

Dr Hennie van der Walt, 31, was one of the South African doctors who helped the injured. "It was almost unreal, working in swimming costumes to save lives," he said.

He was sunbathing on the beach when the aircraft crashed. He said: "The plane looked as if it was going to bank and fly seawards, but one wing dropped and hit the water. Then it struck the water



Wreckage from the crashed aircraft lies in shallow water off the holiday resort of La Galawa Beach yesterday. Divers and doctors were on hand to help

and cracked in two. For about three minutes there was absolute silence — people were stunned. But immediately the hotel staff and guests moved into action. People rushed out to the wreckage by boat and were soon ferrying the injured and dead to shore.

Mr van der Walt and a fellow Pretoria doctor, Richard Ing, together with a female French doctor, set up an emergency treatment post.

The hotel brought blankets and medical supplies to the beach. "The first ones on the beach were not very serious. We were able to help them and they were transported to hospital but later they began bringing bodies," said Mr van der Walt.

They worked without pause for an hour and a half. "We recovered 30 people who were saved. The rest were dead," Mr van der Walt said.

Alphonso Dala, a Nigerian passenger, said he was turned upside down after the impact. "I felt myself turning. Then there was a big bang and I was in the water. I was in my seat in the water," said Mr Dala, who was not injured.

N.B. Surti, from Bombay, was one of many survivors who thought he was about to die. "We knew we were going to land in the sea. We already knew that we were going to

die. Five or six times I went up and down in the water. I wanted very much to survive. I fought through all the bodies and everything and grabbed a broken part of the plane. Slowly I came out," he said.

Natalie Bier, a receptionist at the hotel, said she heard a loud bang as the plane hit the water. "Straight after that everybody was running and we were getting the boats out, going to try to rescue any

survivors we could."

Most of the survivors found by hotel staff and guests were critically injured. Ms Bier said: "We also recovered a lot of people who didn't make it, who died on the boat or at the beach."

Some of the survivors owed their lives to a group of divers who had been just off the beach when the aircraft crashed about 100 metres away. "I heard the most

violent crashing noise as the jet crunched into the coral," said Alex Coinchelin, a young French diving instructor who had been under water with a group of ten tourists.

"In the water you don't know where the noise is coming from, it's all around. I rushed to the surface. I could not believe it," M Coinchelin and colleagues immediately swam to rescue people from the wreckage.

Hijacker slugged whisky as he grabbed controls

By Emma Wilkins

ONE of the hijackers of flight ET961 grabbed the controls and tried to fly the aircraft while brandishing a bottle of whisky in his other hand, the co-pilot said yesterday.

Yonas Mekuria, aged 35, who survived with minor injuries, said one of the terrorists appeared to be drunk as he waved the bottle of Johnnie Walker Black Label, which he had stolen from the duty-free cart on the plane.

Mr Mekuria was punched as he was bundled out of his seat in the cockpit by the three Ethiopian hijackers.

"It was pretty bizarre. They were interfering with procedures, grabbing at the instruments. They snatched the radio from the jack," Mr Mekuria said.

As Capt Leul Abate, aged 42, struggled to restore order to the flight deck, a hijacker ripped his head-set off, severing communication with the control tower at Moroni airport in the Comoros.

Mr Mekuria said Captain Abate pleaded with the hijackers to let him land at Moroni because the aircraft was running out of fuel.

The hijackers, however, who were armed with an axe, a fire extinguisher, and what they claimed was a bomb, refused to cut short the flight. "I guess they understood it, but they didn't give a damn,"



Mohamed Amin, 53, the television cameraman whose footage of the Ethiopian famine 12 years ago moved the world, was confirmed last night as one of the victims of the hijacking. It was his film that was the catalyst for Live Aid, the most successful fund-raising venture in history, which raised millions of pounds worldwide to ease Ethiopia's suffering. The Kenyan-born cameraman was on his way home to Nairobi.

Mr Mekuria said.

The hijack began shortly after the aircraft took off from Addis Ababa on a flight to the Ivory Coast on Saturday. Among the aircraft's passengers were an unusually large number of diplomats: the United States consul to Bombay, the Hungarian ambassador to Kenya, two officials from the Italian embassy in Addis Ababa, two Swedish diplomats and one South Korean official.

The hijackers stood up, started shouting and then stormed on to the flight deck. Shortly afterwards they made an announcement in Amharic, the Ethiopian language, in which they claimed to have escaped from prison.

"We are against the government. We are hijacking the plane. We have an explosive. If anybody moves we'll explode it," the announcement said. Their only demand was to be flown to Australia.

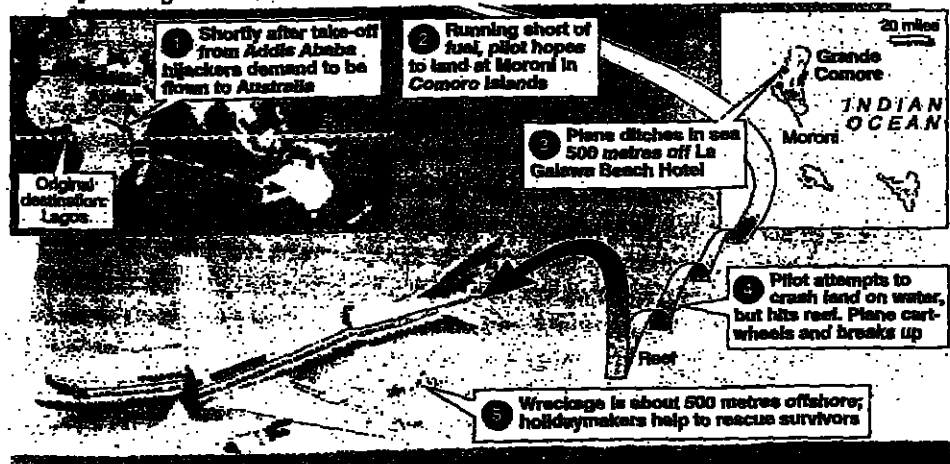
Shortly before the crash, Capt Abate announced to the passengers that he had lost one engine, the plane was out of fuel and he was going to attempt a crash landing in the sea.

One survivor said that the passengers began to scream and pray.

The aircraft was 25 kilometres (16 miles) short of the airport at Moroni when it crashed. Capt Abate, who suffered head injuries in the crash, said the hijackers had claimed they "wanted to make history".

One survivor said the hijackers refused to allow passengers to eat or drink for three hours.

After Captain Abate announced the impending crash landing, one of the hijackers ran down the main aisle screaming "Sidi Sidi", one of the survivors said.



Women survive jet crash

Continued from page 1 brandishing a whisky bottle and claiming to be carrying a bomb. He demanded the pilot fly to Australia and ignored the crew's warning that the plane did not have enough fuel.

Among the 120 feared dead were the television cameraman, Mohamed Amin, whose graphic footage of the 1984 Ethiopian famine launched the Live Aid charity.

A British aid worker, Andy Meakins, who worked for the Tear Fund Foundation, was also feared dead. He had worked in Ethiopia from 1976 and his wife and three children live in Addis Ababa.

Divers were last night trying to recover some of the bodies still trapped inside the fuselage, but rescue teams said there was no hope of



An Ethiopian Airlines 767, the type of jet that crashed

finding any more survivors.

Mr Anders told how his daughter and Katie met when they were both working for the television channel, MTV, and decided earlier this year to take time off from their jobs to see the world. "They are both very gifted, but they wanted to travel and what else could we do but wish them God speed," Mr Anders said at his Surrey home. A call from a United Nations official told Mr An-

ders and his wife Patsy that their daughter was safe.

"We knew she was taking that flight, but before we saw any news about the crash this kind man from the UN telephoned to say 'Your daughter has been in an air crash but she is safe. I did not know whether to laugh or cry'."

Katie Hayes's brother, Andrew, said: "My sister is a smoker and so she was sitting at the back of the plane."

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Police swoop with grenades to end the luxury kidnap

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE used stun grenades to free a disabled man from kidnappers who had been holding him to ransom in a luxury hotel.

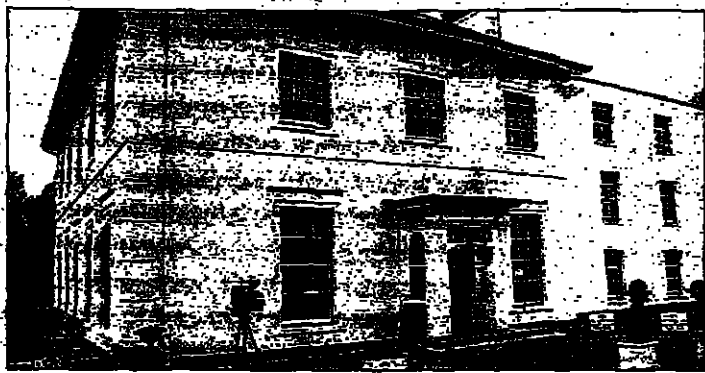
Craig Allee's businessman father, Gordon, had gone to the police after his son vanished from home in Liverpool. Demands from the gang were traced to the four-star West Lodge Park hotel, in Barnet, north London.

Scotland Yard marksmen and detectives from the South-East regional crime squad battered down the doors of two luxury rooms, tossed in the grenades and rescued the hostage unharmed.

Last night, Merseyside detectives were interviewing four men and a woman about the kidnap and possible links to Merseyside's violent underworld of guns and drugs. The gang had been demanding £51,000.

Detective Superintendent John Kerruish, in charge of the operation, said that Mr Allee, who has spina bifida, had been examined by a doctor and interviewed by police. His father and mother were also interviewed by police.

"Other than financial gain, we have yet to establish a clear motive," he said. "We have to



West Lodge Park, recommended by Egon Ronay with praise for "cossetting little extras"

question the people involved and find out why that particular sum of money was involved.

"Mr Allee suffers from spina bifida, he is only 21, he was driven hundreds of miles. But he is now quite cheerful and in good spirits and is grateful for what was done for him."

Mr Kerruish said that people had been with him practically all the time since his kidnap, but at the particular moment when the room was raided he had been left alone.

The kidnap is believed to have begun early on Saturday morning when Mr Allee was in bed at his mother's home in Alfred Newns, in

Liverpool city centre.

Mr Allee, who is not immobile but needs daily medication, was believed to have been driven down the M6 overnight, on to the M25 before dawn and then taken to stay in the hotel.

The West Lodge Park, which boasts an entry in the latest Egon Ronay guide praising "cossetting little extras" in the rooms, is surrounded by a 35-acre park. It also won an award in 1995 and has a highly praised restaurant.

The party booked in at 7.30am and paid cash for two rooms for one night. The gang took the Lavender room with a four-poster

bed for their hostage at £116 a night.

At one stage, rooms were booked for a second night.

Russell Cox, 20, a porter, delivered a soft drink for Mr Allee. Mr Cox said: "We chatted for a couple of minutes."

"He was extremely relaxed. I asked him how he was and he said that he was OK, and that everything was fine."

"I would never have guessed there was anything wrong, he seemed completely happy."

Housekeeper Yolanda Ballester, 29, also went into the room during the day, believing it was empty. She said: "Before they even said anything I was in the room. There was a young lad."

"He was sitting in the chair. I thought he was tying his shoelaces but later found out that he had spina bifida. He didn't actually say anything."

"I heard a lady's voice ask, 'Can I help you?'"

"I apologised and said I didn't realise there was anyone in the room and made my exit fairly quickly. I was more embarrassed really."

Asked if she thought anything was unusual, she added: "Nothing suspicious at all."

Tonia King, the duty manageress



Craig Allee: his father went to police after demand for £51,000

said when police first arrived, they asked if any of the guests had made calls to Liverpool. Phone bills for rooms were checked.

The officers then asked for a room overlooking the car park and were given a meeting room on the second floor, directly above the

four-poster room.

Police broke in when they knew Mr Allee was alone and arrested a woman in the second room.

Miss King said that staff and guests heard loud bangs and shouting from two rooms after police broke in, and the fire alarm

went off briefly.

Two men were arrested shortly afterwards in the car park and two more men walked into the hotel later unaware of what had happened. A policeman posing as a porter led them away and they were arrested.

No sign of spin doctors in Blair's downbeat discs

The Labour leader avoided the pretentious in his appearance on *Desert Island Discs*, but his selection left Richard Morrison, Arts Editor, wishing he had taken a risk.

SO NOW we know. New Labour, old rockers. There's no room for Blair on Blair's desert island, nor any of the other luminaries of Bräpop. Instead, the Leader of the Opposition revealed his eight favourite records to be a solid, indeed stolid, mixture of the downbeat and the obscure, mostly dating from before Britain's youngest generation of voters was born.

It was hard for even the most rabid right-wing conspiracy theorist to detect the hand of a Labour spin-doctor in this anodyne and whiskery choice, unless it was by the very exclusion of any music that might reveal something of the leader's personality.

No, this seemed all too clearly to be Mr Blair's own work: a list loaded with personal and family associations. True, he didn't go quite as far as Neil Kinnock, who included a faintly excruciating tape of his two-year-old daughter singing *Horace the Horse* among his eight records. Nor did he emulate John Major's somewhat bizarre tribute to Norma (the Mad Scene from *Lucia di Lammermoor*).

But he did choose Debussy's *Clair de Lune* simply because it was his "mother's favourite record" and The Beatles' *In My Life* — with its line "I know I'll never lose affection for people and things that went before" — was a touching reference to Mr Blair's own father.

Similarly, pre-nuptial days of wine and roses with the young Cherie Booth were evoked by Bruce Springsteen's *Fourth of July*, *Asbury Park (Sandy)*, with which Mr Blair apparently used to re-

gale his sweetheart when she came round to his "extremely grotty flat in St John's Wood". Are there, incidentally, any extremely grotty flats in St John's Wood?

Elsewhere, Mr Blair's musical choice verged on the maddening. A dreary acoustic band called Ezio was granted its 15 seconds of fame, while Samuel Barber's fey *Adagio for Strings* was revealed as the unlikely inspirational background when Mr Blair composed his stirring conference speeches. Paul Rogers, singer of the seventies group, Free, was described as "the man whose voice I most wanted to emulate". Then came a crackly old blues record by Robert Johnson and *Memories of the Alhambra* by the turn-of-the-century Spanish composer Francisco Tarrega.

At least he didn't follow in the well-worn tracks of earlier political castaways. He didn't choose extracts from cricket commentaries (Major, Douglas-Horne), or hymns (Thatcher, Callaghan, Heath, Douglas-Horne), or brass band music (Thatcher, Callaghan). Nor does the Blair list contain any gaudy political allusions — as Mr Major attempted five years ago with *Rhapsody in Blue* and *The Best is Yet to Come*.

I just wish that it didn't seem so earnest, dull and dated. But nobody ever achieved anything in politics by revealing pretentious musical tastes on *Desert Island Discs*. Ask Paddy Ashdown. He chose Chinese folk music and a concerto for two mandolins — and look where it got him.

BLAIR'S DESERT ISLAND DISCS

Cancel Today... performed by Ezio.
Clair de Lune... by Debussy.
In My Life... by The Beatles.
4th of July, Asbury Park (Sandy)... by Bruce Springsteen.
Adagio for Strings, op 11... by Samuel Barber.
Cross Road Blues... by Robert Johnson.
Wishing Well... Free.
Recuerdos de la Alhambra... by Francisco Tarrega.

Guitar man who tried to pluck heart strings

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leader used his desert island exile as an opportunity to talk openly of his failed amorous advances and his reluctance to match his wife's devotion to study.

Mr Blair admitted that it took "quite a long time" before he was able to impress Cherie Booth, his fellow trainee barrister and wife-to-be. Eventually, the lovelorn lawyer made the breakthrough at a lunch organised by his former head of chambers and now Shadow Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Laird. "He invited us to lunch, he disappeared and I remember we were still there at dinner time so something must have happened along the

way." Cherie Booth's influence clearly went further than the realms of romance. Acknowledging that his wife is more intelligent than himself, Mr Blair admitted that he could not match her capacity for study while training for the Bar. While she pored over case law in the Lincoln's Inn library, he confessed to spending more time in local public houses, and said that he relied on her assistance to get through his Bar exams.

"I thought — and I still think — she's one of the most unusual and interesting people I've met," Mr Blair, whose luxury was a classical guitar.

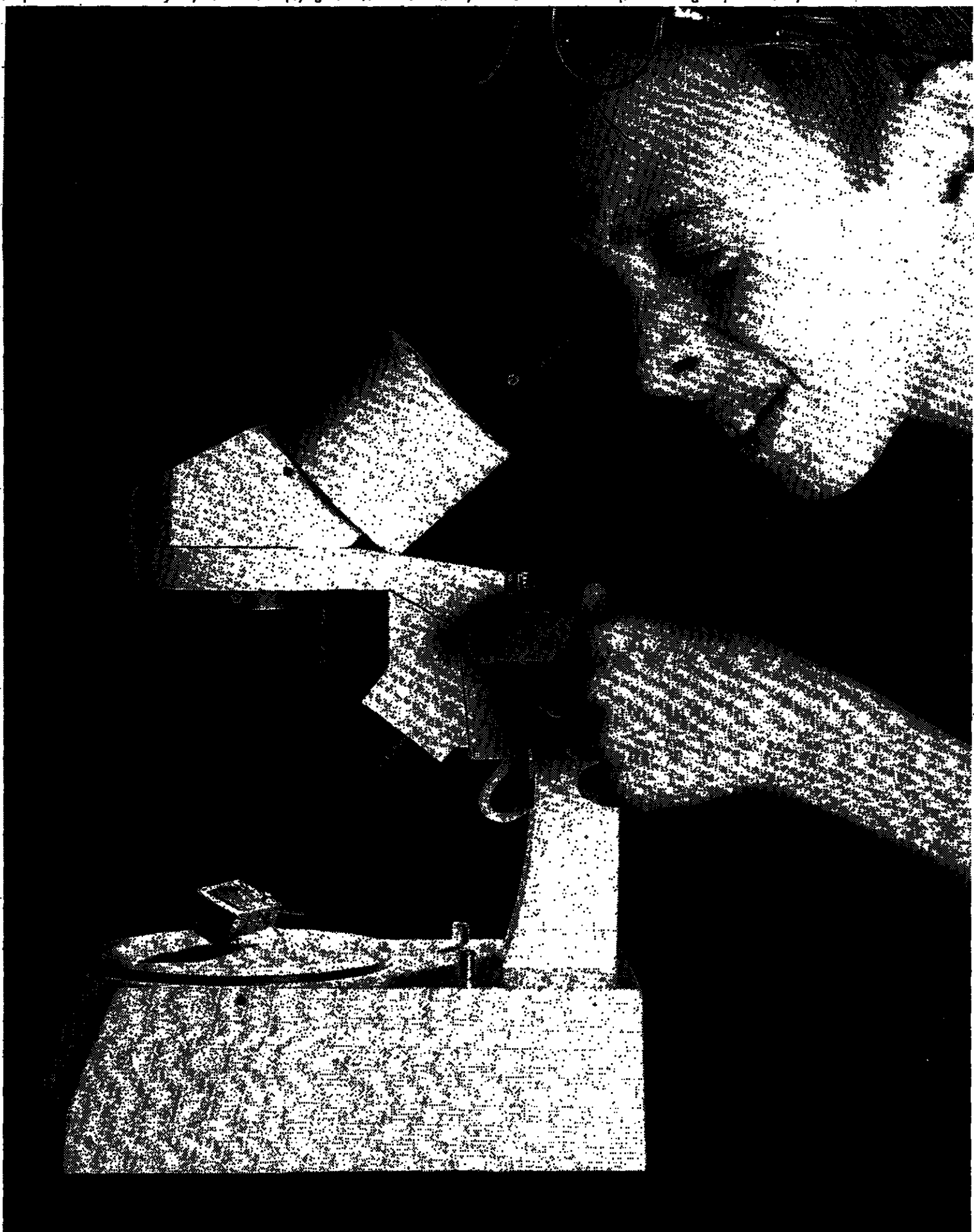
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Expert denounces National Gallery's Rubens



Brush strokes in the disputed *Samson and Delilah*, left, are described by one expert as staccato, compared with other Rubenses. Right, a detail of his *Death of Seneca*



Fresh blow discredits £6 million prized exhibit

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

FRESH evidence casting doubt on the authenticity of one of the National Gallery's most prized exhibits, Rubens's *Samson and Delilah*, has been unearthed in Belgian archives.

Jan Caluwaerts, a Flemish genealogical consultant to the National Archives in Brussels, who uncovered the 17th-century documents in Antwerp, believes the painting is a copy. His research reinforces the view of artists and scholars who are convinced that the original is lost. The gallery acquired its picture in 1980 for £2.5 million, or £6 million at today's prices.

Mr Caluwaerts found that archives relating to Nicholas Rockox, the patron who commissioned a *Samson and Delilah* painting from Rubens, shows that his Antwerp home and its contents remained with his descendants until 1712 — 12 years after the gallery says its 1609 picture entered the Prince of Lichten-



Rubens, master of vibrant brushwork

stein's collection. Mr Caluwaerts said: "I believe this cannot be the original."

"The only objects sold off from Rockox's collection were some coins. This was a very wealthy family and they had not reason to sell anything

They were proud to have such a painting because of the reputation of Rubens."

The gallery bought its picture at Christie's, whose catalogue said it was mentioned in inventories of 1653 and 1692. However, artists researching the picture through Mr Caluwaerts's archives since its purchase found that the auction house had mistakenly described the original, when in fact they recorded "a copy".

Euphrosyne Doxiadis, an artist and award-winning scholar, and Steven Harvey and Siân Hopkinson, painters, also discovered that in 1700 the Prince of Lichtenstein accepted that his painting was a copy.

Throughout its 180 years in the prince's important collection, it was always attributed to a minor hand, Jan van den Hoek. Only in 1929 was it hailed as the real thing by a scholar who made a number

of other Rubens "reattributions", which have subsequently fallen.

Ms Doxiadis said: "This picture is betrayed by brush strokes which are almost staccato and broken up, rather than having been done with one sweep of the wrist, which you see in all other Rubens. There is an absence of Rubens's vibrant, pulsating-with-life strokes. In actual Rubens, each stroke is a *tour de force*. This is clumsy and awkward."

Further evidence has since been found in the 1653 inventory of another Antwerp artist, Jeremias Wildens, whose father Jan was a landscape artist employed by Rubens to paint backgrounds and trees in some of his pictures.

The artists believe that Wildens's description of his *Samson and Delilah* as a copy is particularly significant. In an age when artists were connoisseurs and just a few years after the deaths of

Rubens and Rockox, Wildens would have known that his work was not the original.

The National Gallery, pointing to leading scholars who do accept the attribution, conducted a dendrochronology test to date the wood panel and to back its case. Peter Klein from Hamburg University produced data that led the gallery to proclaim that the picture could have been painted in 1609. Another dendrochronologist, Professor Michael Baillie of Queen's University in Belfast, backed Klein's report.

However, Coralie Mills, an Edinburgh dendrochronologist with AOC (Scotland), whose clients include the National Trust for Scotland, said: "It is unsafe to say that 1609 is any more likely than a later date such as 1620." Another specialist, Martin Bridge, an academic whose projects include dating the Tudor warship Mary Rose, noted: "All Klein should be

saying is that the range is 1597 to 1630." When Dr Klein was asked by *The Times* to detail other paintings that could be closely related to the *Samson* data, he did not mention works of a similar date, such as *The Execution of The Cross* of 1610-11. He listed later works such as the portrait *Isabella* in Vienna, which has been redated by scholars from 1609 to the 1620s after dendrochronology tests.

Michael Daley, director of Artwatch UK, the campaigning body which has been critical of National Gallery policies, and who has been researching the Rubens with the other artists for the past year, said: "It does seem astonishing that the National Gallery ever considered buying this picture as a Rubens. Everything that could be wrong with it is. Its look is not consistent with a single bona fide Rubens."

Christopher Wright, a scholar of 17th-century art

whose research prompted the gallery to de-attributed another picture in its collection, said that despite his respect for the gallery's curator, Christopher Brown, "in my opinion, I've always thought this work was rubbish". He added: "They have made a mistake with this. We all make mistakes. It's the defence of the mistake, not the mistake itself, that is to be criticised."

Another Old Masters scholar, Richard Fremantle, said: "It is so vulgar. The crudeness of the picture, the colour, the manner of portraying it is like no highly intelligent, sensitive artist could have painted. Rubens is a great painter. This is not by a great painter."

Neither the National Gallery nor Christie's was prepared to comment on challenges to the attribution. A gallery spokeswoman said that since the dendrochronology test it regarded the matter as closed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Church 'bullies' attacked by Carey

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, last night condemned Church bullies who failed to set an example to non-Christians.

Dr Carey, referring to the recent service at Southwark Cathedral to mark the 20th anniversary of the lesbian and gay Christian movement, said: "It is to our shame that many of those who do not describe themselves as religious observe... moral injunctions so much better than our own bullying, loud-mouthed controversialists."

Pensions inquiry

The Home Office is to investigate the rising number of police officers who retire early on injury pensions for mental and stress problems. Officers get a full pension in advance of normal entitlement plus extra payments for injury.

Dentist charged

A dentist who practised while suspended has been charged with assaulting patients in her care. Diane Wiltshire, 47, was suspended by the General Dental Council on August 30 but continued to see patients at Eastwood, Nottinghamshire.

Spitfire sold

A Spitfire salvaged from mudflats in the Humber estuary by two aircraft enthusiasts from Oxford has been bought by an American oil millionaire for £73,000. It is to be the centrepiece of a D-Day museum in New Orleans.

Wrong track

An accident exercise involving 600 people was abandoned yesterday at Ore, East Sussex, when an old train being used to simulate a crash was found to be contaminated by asbestos. The exercise had been planned for more than a year.

Lights out

A football chairman had to pay £200 for the return of six bulbs stolen from his club's floodlights. Ken Beattie of Morpeth Town, a Northumbrian team, was told by a caller that he would find the lights in a garden shed.

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ALLIED DOMECQ

I was paid £2 for testing radiation, says 'guinea-pig'

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER radar operator described yesterday how he had been a guinea-pig in radiation experiments on 200 military and civilian personnel to test the effects of fall-out. After the Ministry of Defence confirmed that such experiments were carried out over 30 years from the 1950s, Keith Hopwood said he was amazed they had remained secret for so long.

He was a 21-year-old RAF radar operator based at Linton-on-Ouse, near York, when he volunteered to go to Porton Down, the chemical defence research establishment in Wiltshire, to participate in the experiments. He said: "I was paid £2 to take part. That was a lot of money then, when I was earning only £5 a week."

"I had a bottomless rubber cup put on my bare arm and radioactive material was poured into it to see how it would be absorbed into the skin. The experiment lasted

two hours." He was told to sign the Official Secrets Act for a second time before he left. Mr Hopwood, 55, of York, said he had no ill-effects.

The latest revelations about radiation tests at Porton Down, Aldermaston, the atomic weapons establishment in Berkshire, and at the atomic energy research establishment at Harwell, Oxfordshire, followed the declassification of documents relating to the experiments in Britain and the United States.

Michael Roche, chairman of the Porton Down Veterans Association, is among several former human guinea-pigs taking their cases to the European Court of Human Rights. This week, two former servicemen who were involved in the Christmas Island atomic bomb tests are to have their cases reviewed by the Strasbourg court.

Following the release of further documents on the radiation experiments at Porton

Down, Aldermaston and Harwell, including US Government memoranda, the MoD denied that any of the personnel who took part had died or suffered ill-effects. A spokesman said the volunteers were involved in experiments with radio isotopes and never received more than 0.005 millisieverts of radioactivity, which compared with the average natural background dose of 1.87 millisieverts a year.

Some of the records, he said, had been released by the Public Records Office in Kew, although the records of the experiments at Porton Down were no longer available. The MoD insisted that all the experiments were ethical.

Documents released by the US Department of Energy showed that British experiments involved radioactive substances being inhaled, injected, swallowed or eaten. The tests were in collaboration with US laboratories.



Daisy Norris at home before flying out. The Foreign Office and the British Legion advised against the trip

Widow defies warnings to see husband's grave

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

A 79-YEAR-OLD widow flew out yesterday to visit her husband's war grave in Libya in defiance of warnings from the Foreign Office and Royal British Legion.

Daisy Norris, from Beeston, Nottinghamshire, has waited 54 years to say farewell to her first husband, Charles Crawley, a Royal Marine who died at Tobruk on September 14, 1942, aged 24. His body now lies in Grave 13, Row C, Plot 9, among 2,282 graves tended there by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Very few Britons in recent years have been granted permission to visit the cemetery, or the commission's other sites in Tripoli, Benghazi and Acroma. The Foreign Office warned Mrs Norris of the danger she faced travelling to a country with no British diplomatic representation and where travel insurance, including medical emergencies, is virtually impossible because of a ban on international flights. United Nations sanctions are still in force against



Mrs Norris with her husband, Charles Crawley, a Royal Marine who died, aged 24, at Tobruk in 1942

Tripoli over its alleged support of terrorists.

Mrs Norris's persistence paid off when she was granted a three-month visa in September. The widow — her second husband died in 1970 — will travel alone. She will visit Tunisia for a month and make the final arrangements before travelling to Tripoli by bus, where she must report to the authorities before the arduous 800-mile journey to Tobruk.

"I can't believe I'm going after all this time," said Mrs

Norris before her departure last night. "I've had to do it all myself. The Foreign Office weren't very nice about it at all right to the end they kept saying I was causing a lot of problems and I was very lucky to get a visa. I just wiped my hands of the British Legion, who said it couldn't be done."

"I really feel I have beaten the system. Everyone told me it was dangerous and the Libyans couldn't be trusted, but what are they going to do to a 79-year-old woman?"

BT cut 20% off national evening calls.



Dental warning on fluoride after £1,000 payout

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE British Dental Association gave a warning yesterday of the dangers of swallowing fluoride toothpaste after Colgate-Palmolive paid £1,000 to a boy whose teeth appeared to have been damaged because of the habit.

Colgate-Palmolive made the "goodwill" payment to Sharon and Trevor Isaacs of Highams Park, east London, on behalf of their son, Kevin, ten, whose teeth were diagnosed as having been mottled by dental fluorosis.

Mrs Isaacs said she had always "boogied" Colgate's Minty Gel with added fluoride and made sure her son brushed his teeth twice a day using the toothpaste amount recommended by the manufacturers. She said Kevin used to swallow the paste rather than washing it out, but she had rung Colgate to ask whether that would do any harm and had been told it would not.

Dr John Renshaw, a spokesman for the British Dental Association, said yesterday: "If that advice was given it was certainly wrong. No one should ingest products that are not intended to be ingested and that certainly applies to fluoride toothpaste. A child swallowing fluoride tooth-

paste on a regular basis would certainly run a risk of overdosing with fluoride, which can lead to very unsightly brown mottling of the teeth."

The £1,000 paid in Kevin Isaacs's case relates to the expected cost of treating his teeth after the mottled enamel has been removed.

Dr Renshaw said: "Colgate-Palmolive seem to be opening a very big door for further possible claims, but the British Dental Association's view is very firmly that fluoride toothpaste is a valuable weapon against tooth decay. The trouble is that the concentration of fluoride in a paste intended for topical application, that is by direct use on the teeth in brushing, is much higher than the trace of fluoride that might be added to water for ingestion."

Dr Renshaw added: "We can understand Colgate-Palmolive paying £1,000 if the company is satisfied that it gave Mrs Isaacs wrong advice about her son's habit of ingesting the paste. We would be very unhappy if they paid out for any other reason."

The Isaacs family did not live in an area with fluoridated water. Health organisations are seeking further fluoridation of supplies.

Canada please listen: Overfishing by man has ruined Atlantic cod stocks, not overeating by seals..

As justification for the wholesale slaughter of harp seals, the Canadian Government blamed the seals for the demise of Atlantic cod stocks. However, harp seals rarely eat valuable Atlantic cod, mostly consuming commercially unimportant species.

Last December, 27 marine biologists from 15 countries signed a statement which concluded, "Overfishing remains the only scientifically demonstrated conservation problem related to fish stock collapse". In a recently published paper, Canadian biologist, Dr Jeff Hutchings concluded that there is still no evidence of any effect of seal predation related to the collapse of cod stocks or the rate of their recovery. Help us get this point across to the Canadian government. S.O.S. Sign On for Seals, add your name to IFAW's campaign against cruelty and receive an information pack.

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سكان الامم

Blessed are the peacemakers at divided abbey

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE peacemakers have ridden into a town where vicars keep resigning. The trouble-shooting monks answered a call to leave their retreat and commute 20 miles by car to try to heal divisions between the church and laity at Selby, North Yorkshire. They were called by the Archbishop of York, who said there was "a dark cloud" hovering over the parish.

The parish church is the magnificent, 11th-century Selby Abbey, which is as big as many cathedrals. The brothers hope to use prayers and discussions to heal conflicts as the abbey starts looking for its fourth vicar in five years.

Last summer, a Church of England inquiry commissioned by the Rt Rev David Hope, the Archbishop of York, spoke of "widespread interpersonal difficulties". It called for "forgiveness and reconciliation from church and individuals after many years of misunderstanding and antagonism".

Although the report did not go into details, the problems are understood to involve a clash of authority between the clergy and lay administrators

of the abbey. Peter Dodd, one of the vicars who resigned, said at the time: "The root problem is a small group of people, up to ten, within the abbey, who are determined to rule the roost and dictate what happens."

The monks were called in from the Community of the Resurrection, in Mirfield, West Yorkshire. Father Anthony Grant, who heads the team, said a group of three or four would visit the abbey once a week for as long as they were required.

"The Archbishop asked us here to lift the dark cloud referred to in the report, and smooth the way for a new vicar," he said. "It is a difficult job, but we had no hesitation in accepting when the Archbishop asked for our help."

"There is obviously a great deal of unhappiness within the abbey. Three vicars have resigned within five years, and that reveals the extent of the problem. A vicar is not like other jobs where you may move on after a short time. People often remain in the post for years. Such a high turnover indicates discontent. Hopefully, by maintaining a praying presence there and by

talking to the people involved, we shall achieve our aims. But only God knows what the result will be."

Father Grant said he was convinced people in the parish were willing to patch up their differences and put the interests of the church first.

Dr Hope turned to the monks after seeing their work when he was Bishop of Wakefield more than ten years ago. He hopes their intercession will ensure that a new vicar, who should be appointed by Easter, will be able to make a fresh start. Interviews for the post begin on Friday, December 13.

A spokesman for the Archbishop said: "The brethren of the community are part of the assessment of spiritual and pastoral needs in the abbey as it moves with confidence into the future."

Roy Matthews, canon at the abbey, said he hoped that, with the aid of the monks, the problems of the previous years could be solved in time for the appointment of a new vicar. He said: "It is too early to see if the presence of Father Grant and his brethren are having any effect, but I think they can only do good by being here."



Monks with a mission: Father Nicholas Stebbing, Father Grant and Brother James Springett at Selby Abbey

Cowboy builders 'should face ban'

Courts should have powers to ban shoddy builders from running a business, a consumer watchdog says. The National Consumer Council's report, *Controlling the Cowboys*, says there are more than 75,000 complaints a year about home improvements and double glazing, yet schemes for guarantees, training and registration have led to "further confusion and abuse" and the nation's housing stock was deteriorating. It wants a national database of "respectable" firms.

Pilot killed

A man died when his hang-glider collided with a paraglider and fell 100 feet to the ground. Francis Forsyth-Yorke, 27, was killed on the South Downs near Brighton, East Sussex. The other flyer, Jeff McCall, 35, was unhurt.

Trials threatened

Up to 150 prosecutions — including rapes and murders — may fail to reach court in the North of England because evidence was destroyed in the arson attack at a Home Office laboratory at Wetherby, West Yorkshire, on November 11.

Poet dies

The poet Sorley Maclean died yesterday in Inverness. Mr Maclean, 85, was formerly headmaster at Flockton High School on the mainland opposite Skye. He leaves a widow and two daughters.

Obituary, page 27

Testing moment

A driving examiner abandoned a test and called a taxi at Arnold, Nottinghamshire, saying that the driver was too dangerous. Margaretta Wiggins, 54, taking her test for the third time, said: "He can't have been that frightened."

Record twitch

Lee Evans, 36, from Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire, has travelled 72,116 miles around the British Isles and seen 374 types of bird this year, 15 more than in 1990, which earned him a place in the *Guinness Book of Records*.

Obituary, page 27

Burden of slimming and steroids may have proved too much

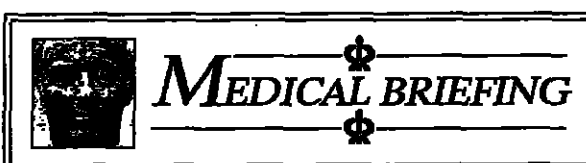


Donovan and his second wife, Diana. The photographer was found hanged on Friday

TERENCE DONOVAN, the photographer, was found hanged on Friday in a west London warehouse which he had been converting into a studio. Mr Donovan, who was 60, had suffered recently from a skin complaint for which, it is reported, he had been prescribed steroids. Mr Donovan had, it seems, been increasingly depressed over the past few weeks.

By all accounts Mr Donovan was, despite his weight, a fitness enthusiast who neither smoked nor drank alcohol. Recently he was said to have lost nearly 5st in as many months.

Photographers are apt to suffer from contact dermatitis, a form of eczema, as a result of exposure to the



Dr Thomas Stuttford

chemicals used in their trade. Once a patient has been sensitised to a chemical the skin troubles are reactivated by contact not only with the same substance, but with many others.

The usual treatment for severe generalised dermatitis, or even not so severe eczema if the face is badly affected, is with oral corticosteroids in large doses. The use of heavy

doses of oral steroids is never without risk. The long continued use of steroid preparations produces weight increase, moon face, humped shoulders, acne, hirsutism, muscle weakness, brittle bones and high blood pressure. The drugs can also affect immune response and glucose tolerance and cause peptic ulceration.

Short courses of steroids

such as are usually prescribed by dermatologists produce few side-effects, but even a short course of high-dose oral steroids can induce a wide range of psychiatric problems. Changes in mood, either unreasonable elation or depression to the extent of producing feelings of hopelessness and suicidal thoughts, are the most common undesirable side-effects.

Other psychiatric conditions have been reported with steroid therapy and the over-elevation they sometimes cause can produce mania together with bizarre and aggressive behaviour. If someone as health-conscious as Mr Donovan suffered depression as a consequence of an unsightly and disturbing skin disease

and was found to be sensitive to steroid treatment it is not difficult to understand how the combination could lead to despair.

The mood in patients prescribed high-dose steroids needs to be constantly assessed and relatives carefully questioned, for patients are liable to put on a brave face when confronted by the doctor. Mr Donovan's rapid weight loss may also have been a factor in his psychiatric state. Over-enthusiastic dieting can induce depression. Dieters should aim to lose not more than 2lb a week, whereas, according to reports, Mr Donovan was shedding his weight at over twice this rate.

Obituary, page 27

You may have noticed that banks and building societies are falling over themselves to offer ludicrously cheap mortgages.

Who is footing the bill?

You, mostly, if you're one of those savers whose deposit account is currently earning a feeble 3%-4% interest.

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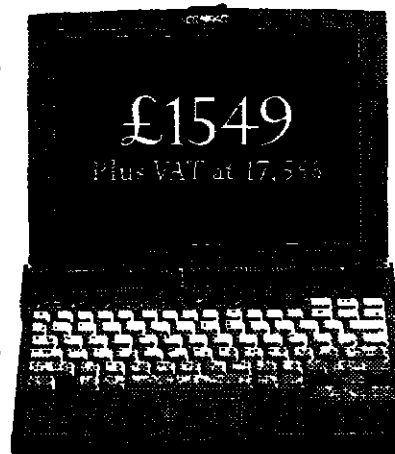
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Britain calls for reforms to court of human rights

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

BRITAIN will today call on the European Court of Human Rights to reform itself after a string of rulings against the Government. It wants changes in the way the court's judges are chosen and how they reach decisions.

Ministers have been angered by decisions such as that on the Gibraltar shooting of three IRA members by the SAS. Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, has gone to Strasbourg at the request of cabinet colleagues after they decided not to pull out of the court but to seek change from within.

The court is also expected to rule today on the Government's banning of the film *Visions of Ecstasy* because it depicts a nun seducing the crucified Christ. Nigel Wingrove, who made the 20-minute film, fell foul of blasphemy laws dating from 1889 when he presented it to the British Board of Film Classification.

Lord Mackay will present three proposals. First, he will ask for new procedures for vetting candidates who are proposed as judges and a standard selection criteria. There is concern that too many of the human rights

judges, who will soon total 40 after Croatia joined the Council of Europe, are academics or human rights specialists. Only half the 32 existing judges — the rest are being appointed — were practising judges.

The Government wants governments informally to exchange the names of candidates and to take into account each other's views on candidates. It would like a common curriculum vitae and selection criteria.

Second, the Government is to push for reform in the sensitive area of how the court reaches its decisions. It wants the court to pay more heed to British circumstances and traditions. Officials believe that if the court had properly applied this doctrine, known as the margin of appreciation, at least a dozen rulings against Britain might have gone in the Government's favour.

These include two this year. The court condemned a decision in British courts that a journalist, Bill Goodwin, should reveal his sources and it ruled against British laws under which juveniles are detained at Her Majesty's pleasure.

Ministers feel the court has

gone beyond its remit by dealing with specific matters that should be left to member states. Britain wants the judges should adopt a more tolerant approach, taking account of "the decisions of local democratic institutions and tribunals, which are best placed to assess issues of this kind".

Third, the Government wants fact-finding procedures of the court reformed, allowing the court to outline its main areas of concern before a hearing takes place and letting the Government explain its position.

Hostility to the European Court reached a pitch earlier this year with calls from some Euro-sceptics for the Government to pull out of the court. The Cabinet opted instead to seek reform. The Government has signed a protocol which will set up a new, reformed court in about 1998, merging it with the European Commission of Human Rights.

Britain has had the third highest number of cases brought against it, after Italy and Turkey. In the past 30 years 80 cases have been brought against Britain and breaches of human rights have been found in 37.



Angus Hobdell yesterday: "They are making me out to be a potential killer"

Shooting champion may quit Britain

By Stephen Farrell

A BRITISH shooting champion is making plans to leave the country because of the proposed handgun ban.

Angus Hobdell, 31, from Camberley, Surrey, is the European champion in Practical Pistol Shooting and came tenth in the world championships. The quiet-spoken environmental engineer learnt to shoot in the cadet force at Dulwich College, southeast London. He devotes up to four hours a day to training in "action" shooting, which involves firing his 38 target pistol from a variety of positions and heights, overcoming obstacles on the range.

"It is my life," he said. "It tests me and I like winning. In England, firearms are not for self-defence, they are for sport. Because of Thomas Hamilton, they are making me out to be a potential killer and I'm not."

"If I want to compete successfully in the European championships in Greece in 1998, I am likely to take a huge chunk of time and go abroad to defend my title, and await the outcome of that. If that means going somewhere in Europe for six months to get a permit, I may have to relocate if that's what it takes to defend my title."



Browne-Wilkinson called for scrutiny by courts

Peers seek curbs on police bugging

By Frances Gibb

OPPOSITION peers backed by senior legal figures will press this week for safeguards to ensure that judges have control over sweeping new powers allowing police to place bugs and telephone taps on private premises.

The Police Bill, which legalises surreptitious entry by police to private property and surveillance, has been attacked by peers, who include a senior law lord, Lord Browne-Wilkinson.

He argues that as well as giving police new powers to tackle organised crime, the Bill will affect anyone who "happens to cross a rogue's path", such as a lawyer or journalist.

Liberty, the civil liberties group, has welcomed the placing of police bugging on a statutory footing. But it says the failure to make the powers subject to judicial scrutiny means the legislation could breach the European Convention on Human Rights.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson is concerned that there will be no scrutiny of the authorisation of surveillance powers. The Government, he says, is proposing to sanction entry by police without any warrant from the courts "but under administrative action".

Opposition peers will seek changes when the Bill starts its committee stage tomorrow.

Major intervenes to settle cabinet dispute over lottery side-betting

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

JOHN MAJOR has intervened in a dispute between ministers over proposals to allow bookmakers to run "golden number" side-bets on the National Lottery.

Side-betting would enable the country's 8,000 bookmakers to offer people the chance of winning £500 for three winning numbers — where the lottery pays just £10. But ministers are split over whether it should go ahead.

Since the start of the lottery two years ago, more than 700 bookies

have gone out of business, with the loss of 3,500 jobs. Side-betting would also remove the anomaly that bets can be made on the Irish lottery result, but not on the National Lottery.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, leads a number of ministers opposed to side-betting. They believe the money paid to good causes would fall as players switched to betting on the result rather than buying lottery tickets.

However, free-marketers disagree and Mr Major has asked officials to draw up an analysis of the pros and cons of side-betting

and to estimate any likely shortfall of money for good causes.

The issue arose after Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, circulated a note to ministers setting out the case for the introduction of side-betting to coincide with the new midweek lottery draw in January. He and a number of other ministers are concerned by the effect of the National Lottery on the racing and betting industry.

Mrs Bottomley has argued that the public would lose confidence in the lottery if it was being used to boost the profits of bookmakers. She would also prefer to see first

whether the midweek lottery is successful. Mrs Bottomley would prefer to help the racing industry by offering funds from the National Lottery Sports Fund.

Mr Howard's supporters are convinced that the lottery would not be affected and point to the Irish lottery, where players who side-bet always buy a lottery ticket for the jackpot prize.

They also believe it is anomalous that people are allowed to bet on Irish lottery numbers. Since July betting shops have offered bets on "Lucky Choice" or Golden Numbers. The turnover is already esti-

mated at £80 million, of which £10 million is profit.

A spokesman for Camelot said last night: "Side-betting would have a negative impact on the National Lottery. Using the Irish experience as an example, sales are likely to go down by 10 to 20 per cent, which represents between £500 million and £1 billion a year. This of course would mean a large decrease in revenue for good causes."

Tom Kelly, spokesman for the Betting Office Licence Association, said the industry had campaigned hard for a change. "The lottery will always have an irresistible lure and

we could not possibly match the lottery jackpot." He said that it was the first time that bookmakers had not been allowed to take bets on a future event.

A spokesman for the Ladbroke group, which runs 1,800 betting offices, said last night: "We do not believe it would affect the National Lottery. We believe side-betting represents more deregulation and we support it. It is unjust our industry has suffered so much because of the lottery."

Lottery projects, page 12
Camelot magazine, page 56

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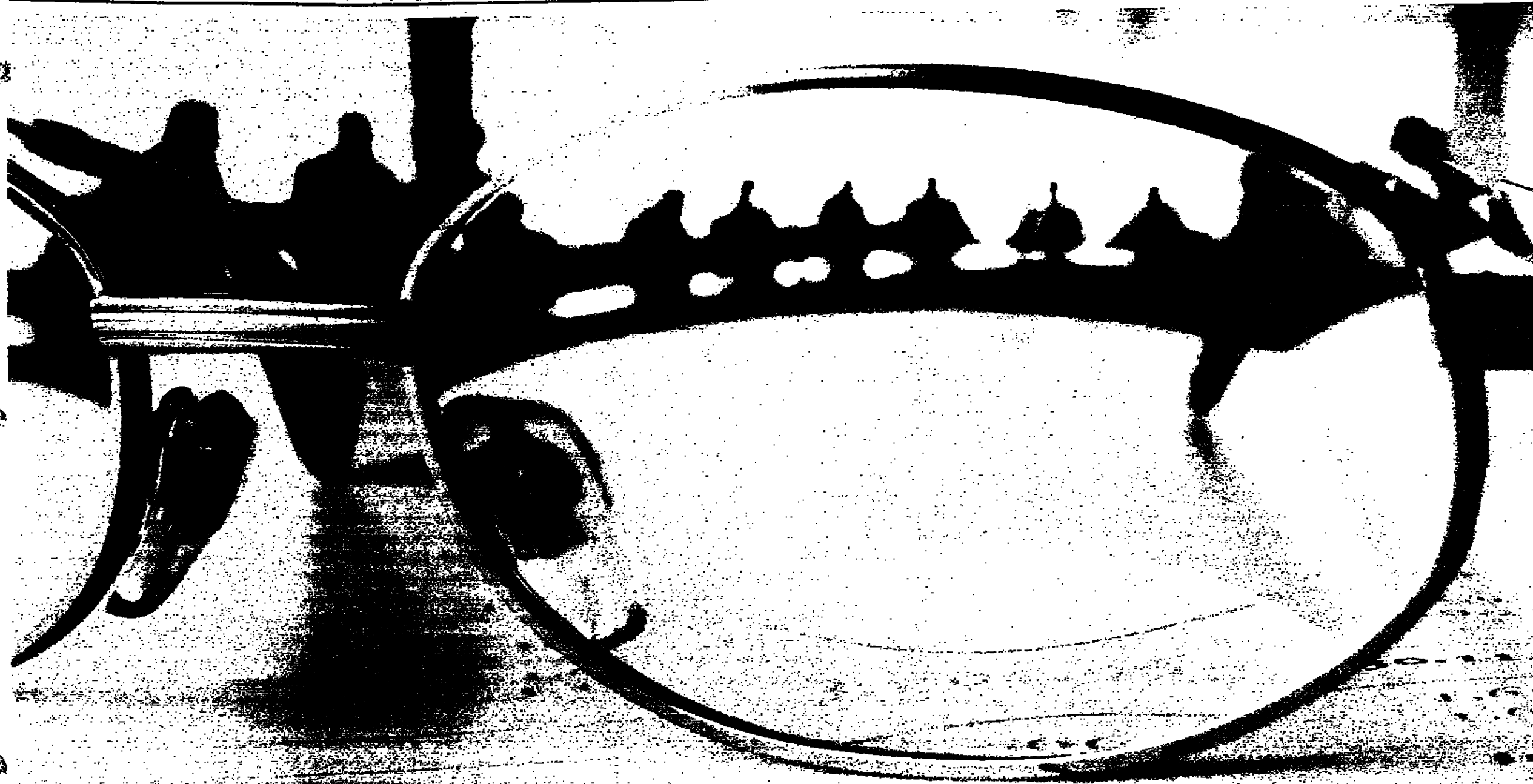
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Forestry Commission leads fight to prevent European seeds polluting 200 new millennium woodlands

English oak threatened by cheap foreign acorns

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE native English oak is being threatened with "genetic pollution" by billions of foreign oak seedlings brought in to stock more than 200 new woodlands being planted for the millennium celebrations.

Botanists and biologists fear that the interlopers could supplant English oaks and upset the food chain they support. They say there is no reason apart from cost why English acorns should not be used — imported oak seedlings are about 9p each against up to 14p for native stock.

Insects, birds and other

creatures have evolved alongside native trees but the foreign oaks, although visually identical, have turned out to have greater differences than thought.

Dr Colin Ferris, of the University of Leicester's department of botany, said yesterday: "The oaks of eastern and central Europe have been isolated from British oaks for up to four million years. The life forms that live on them have evolved separately for about the same length of time."

"When we plant these trees we expect our wildlife will

move in. But they may well not do that or be as happy as in forests stocked by native trees," he said.

A spokesman for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said it could be a disaster for some birds, such as tits, which rely on caterpillars that eat oak buds to feed their young. Central and eastern European oaks produce leaves two weeks later than British oaks and a delay could trigger famine conditions for the caterpillars arrive late.

Other delicate food chains

might also suffer and some experts are worried that the alien trees will pollinate with native oaks, diluting the genetic strength of the English trees. Colin Leppard of the Joint Council of Landscape Industries wants rules, mirroring those in Germany and France, to halt the "genetic pollution" of the countryside.

Scientists also suspect that the bark, wood, acorns and foliage of the alien trees have a chemistry which is likely make them nutritionally and taste-wise different for a wide range of creatures from beetles and flies to caterpillars, birds and mammals, such as the red squirrel.

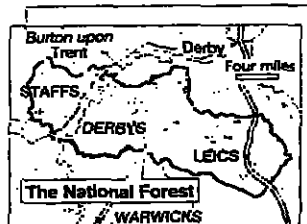
Certain caterpillars depend entirely on the oak tree, including those of the oak leaf roller moth, *Tortrix viridana*, and winter moth, *Operophtera brumata*, which are themselves vital food sources for great and blue tits. Mature oaks also support a vast array of fungi and common and rare species of beetles and flies, including the extremely rare violet click beetle. Woodpeckers, including the greater spotted, depend on insects found under oak bark for food. Jays collect acorns and bury them as a source of winter food.

Dr Ferris said that if the new forests were intended to recreate what had been lost, then native trees should be planted. There were plenty of places where acorns could be collected.

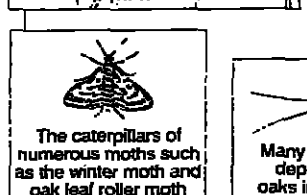
Keith Kirby of English Nature, which has raised the



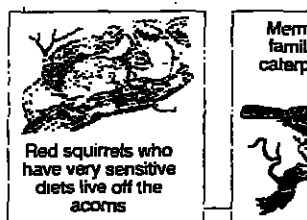
The Fredville Oak in Kent, from Thomas Pakenham's *Meetings with Remarkable Trees* (Weidenfeld & Nicholson)



HUNDREDS OF SPECIES DEPEND ON THE OAK



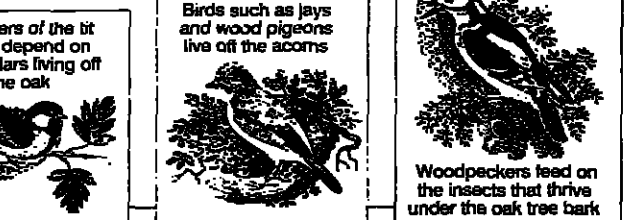
The caterpillars of numerous moths such as the winter moth and oak leaf roller moth live on the leaves



Many beetles and flies depend on mature oaks including the rare violet click beetle



Birds such as jays and wood pigeons live off the acorns



Woodpeckers feed on the insects that thrive under the oak tree bark

Slow start means some of the 'big 12' lottery schemes may fall by the wayside

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

ONLY two of the "big 12" projects given National Lottery cash are expected to be completed before 2000. Delays in getting the Millennium Commission off the ground and a tangle of bureaucracy are blamed.

The commission has named ten regional Landmark Projects which will receive up to £50 million each of lottery money as long as the developers can match this with private cash. Two more schemes will be chosen next year.

Only the Millennium Seed Bank in West Sussex and the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff are now aiming to be completed before the end of 1999.

But the world's largest ferris wheel, to be erected on the South Bank of the Thames opposite the House of Commons, using only private money, is scheduled for completion by the end of 1998 after John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, gave his approval last week.

One of the most troubled Landmark Projects is the Earth Centre near Doncaster. The proposed centre for environmental research is struggling to find private money to match an injection from the lottery and has appointed a new chairman, Derek Osborn, to shake up the project. He has chosen a new project director and radically revised the construction schedule to complete some time in

2000. The renaissance of Portsmouth harbour has also had to rethink its timetable. A spokesman said: "There has been some delay in getting all the agreements from the commission but we are very confident our project will be ready." The new deadline is summer 2000.

The director of another Landmark Project, which has secured most of the private backing it needs but will not be finished until the middle of 2000, said that the commission had placed huge bureaucratic hurdles in the path of developers.

But the real culprit had been the Government's tardiness in planning how to celebrate the millennium in the first place, he said. "The

commission was not created early enough to get the projects up and running before the end of this millennium. I think it is expected that the odd project will fall by the wayside because of the competition for private backing."

The commission did not invite the first applications for funding until 1995. The architects of the ferris wheel, which will be sponsored by British Airways, had drawn up detailed plans in 1994.

A spokeswoman for the commission said: "Scheduling is something that is negotiable. Developers have to prove they will be finished around 2000 and they should be finished by the end of 2001."

LANDMARK PROJECTS

■ The Earth Centre, Doncaster: 400-acre centre for environmental research. Cost: £100 million. Completion due: 2000.
 ■ Renaissance of Portsmouth Harbour: promenades, homes, shops. Cost: £90 million. Completion due: summer 2000.
 ■ Tate Gallery of Modern Art, London: redeveloped Bankside Power Station. Cost: £130 million. Completion due: spring 2000.
 ■ Hampden, Glasgow: overhaul of Scottish stadium to international standards. Cost: £51 million. Completion date unavailable.
 ■ Millennium Seed Bank, West Sussex: store of 25,000 species of flora. Cost: £76 million. Completion due: November 1999.

■ Lowry Centre, Salford: theatres, L.S. Lowry galleries, virtual reality centre. Cost: £127 million. Completion due: 2000.
 ■ Millennium Stadium, Cardiff: 75,000-seat all-weather stadium, retractable roof. Cost: £106 million. Completion due: 1999.
 ■ Bristol 2000: electronic zoo, science centre, performing arts centre. Cost: £82.7 million. Completion due: end of 2000.
 ■ Centre for Life, Newcastle upon Tyne: genetics and bioscience centre. Cost: £54 million. Completion due: April 2000.
 ■ Millennium Point, Birmingham: science and technology park, university. Cost: £110 million. Completion due: May 2001.

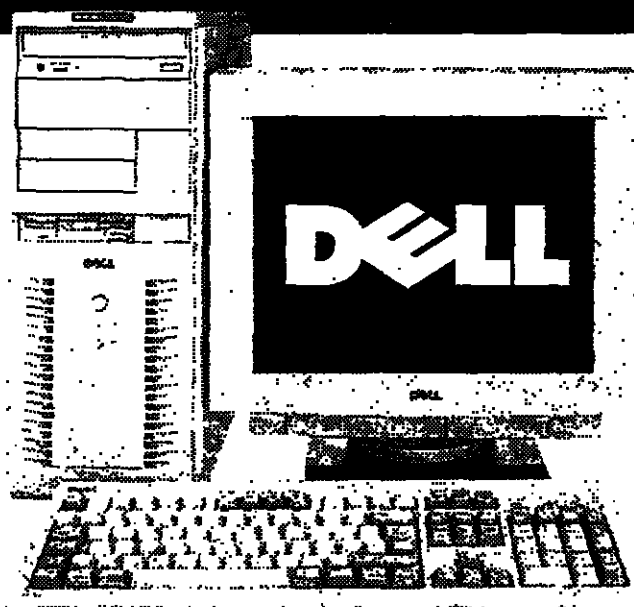
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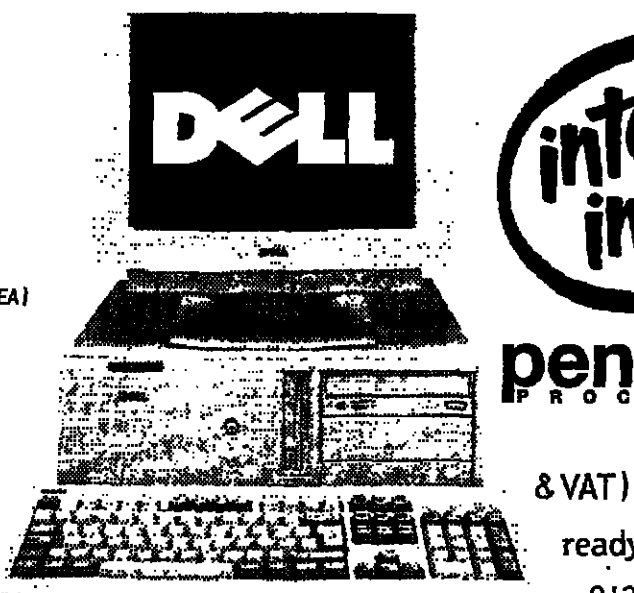
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Morris admits 'fatal flaw'

Love of power was my downfall, says White House aide

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

DICK MORRIS, who was forced to resign as President Clinton's top political adviser over a year-long affair with a prostitute, has admitted being infatuated with power and feeling immune to the rules.

In his first extensive comments since the scandal rocked the Clinton campaign three months ago, Mr Morris said: "My sense of reality was just altered. I started out being excited working for the President. Then I became arrogant, then I became grandiose and then I became self-destructive."

Having advised Mr Clinton on and off for 18 years, Mr Morris was behind the President's successful election strategy of moving towards the centre and closer to Republican positions, disarming liberal Democrats.

Mr Morris disclosed that two days after the election, Mr Clinton called to give his thanks in a "wonderful, warm chat". Did he still consider Mr Clinton a friend? "Yes I do," he said quietly.

The world of limousines, lavish expenses and immeasurable influence at the pinnacle of power, all collapsed for Mr Morris when his pager went off in Chicago on the eve of the Democrats' convention. The *Star* tabloid was calling about his relationship with Sherry Rowlands, a prostitute he had entertained in his Washington hotel suite and had allowed to listen in on his private chats with Mr Clinton.



Morris: we should read the Greek tragedies

"In that moment I knew that everything was over and nothing would ever be the same," Mr Morris said. As he described it, his demise was as sudden as being shot. Now, with the guidance of two therapists and a self-help group, he is trying to put his life and marriage back together.

It was the second time he had betrayed his wife, Eileen McGann. Earlier during their 20-year relationship, he had fathered a child by a woman in Texas. He said his wife helped him to emerge from the "total despair" that followed his resignation. He was grateful to her for standing by him when he was as down as he could get. But he did not know if their marriage would endure. His wife would make that decision. He said: "She's a magnificent woman and she didn't let me down in the slightest... little bit deserve what happened to her. I do know I very much

want to stay married to her, if she'll let me."

Speaking with remarkable candour, Mr Morris said it was too simple to say that he had been a victim of sexual addiction, as though he had an illness like pneumonia or mumps. Rather, he said, "I had... and I hope to be getting over, a fundamental flaw in my character, a fundamental weakness in my personality, a fundamental sin. I'm prone to being infatuated with power and believing that the rules don't apply to me."

Mr Morris is convinced that his arrival at the White House, the culmination of his life's work, only hastened his downfall. Now 48, he said: "Everybody who turns 40 should read the Greek tragedies. They all have within them the same idea — the thing that may have helped you move up then destroys you. I'm a living example of that."

Mr Morris said he was not sure if he would work again as a political consultant. It would require straightening out his life and being accepted. Meanwhile, he will be cushioned by a contract worth \$2.5 million (£1.5 million) from Random House, the book publishers, for memoirs that are expected to provide best-selling insights into his work as Mr Clinton's campaign strategist.

The contract came to light after his resignation, but had been signed secretly five months earlier. Mike McCurry, the President's spokesman, expressed anger that Mr Morris had not disclosed the deal before.

Tensions rise over Golan settlers

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

TENSION in the Middle East grew yesterday as Syria rejected the proposal of a Washington peace summit with Israel and Damascus accused Benjamin Netanyahu's Government of pushing the region towards war by planning to move hundreds more Jews to the Golan Heights.

In the Gaza Strip hundreds of angry Palestinian motorists blocked the isolated Jewish settlement of Netzarim and in the West Bank, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation official gave a warning that the promised expansion of Jewish settlements would trigger new clashes between Arabs and Jews. Last night, with tension mounting in Gaza, Freih Abu Medeen, the Palestinian Justice Minister, said that if Israel refused to open the road that passes Netzarim to Palestinians it would "lead to problems similar to those of the opening of the tunnel". He was referring to the archaeological tunnel in Jerusalem near the Temple Mount, the opening of which sparked violence in which 75 people were killed and 1,500 wounded.

In Cairo, Amr Moussa, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, condemned Israel's expanding settlement activity, after a similar attack issued by Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan. Mr Moussa said the settlement moves posed "extremely dangerous and serious intentions on the true intentions of the current Israeli Government".

The initiative for the Washington summit was launched



An Israeli soldier and a Palestinian argue during a Gaza Strip protest yesterday

by Senator Arlen Specter, who visited Damascus and Jerusalem last week in an attempt to defuse the war jitters between the two capitals sparked by recent reciprocal troop movements and alerts on either side of Israel's northern border. Muhammad Salem, the Syrian Minister of Information and a close confidante of President Assad, rejected the idea of an Assad-Netanyahu summit. He said that there was no point in such a

meeting, designed to restart peace talks halted since March, if Israel insisted on holding on to the Golan, strategic territory it had conquered in 1967.

The latest broadside came after recent allegations from both countries that each was guilty of gearing up for a new war, with Egypt stating that it would not stand by if Syria was attacked.

Yesterday Israel tried unsuccessfully to defuse the crisis by denying that the

plans to build 900 new homes on the Golan had been given final approval. Details of the scheme were widely leaked in the Israeli media and confirmed by senior Israeli officials. The units are part of a plan to add 2,500 new homes for Jews on the volcanic plateau by 2000.

At present, there are 15,000 Jews living on the Golan. Yesterday it was reported that large numbers of Jews had inquired about buying new homes in the area.

Steroids offer hope in Ebola treatment

FROM INIGO GILMORE
IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICAN doctors may have stumbled across a treatment for the deadly Ebola virus.

American scientists are to begin experiments, based on recent findings, after the Gabonese doctor who brought the virus to South Africa for the first time responded well to steroid treatment given to him by doctors who had failed to diagnose his illness.

Professor Guy Richards, of the Johannesburg General Hospital, said he had recently treated 15 to 20 patients suffering from viral chickenpox pneumonia with "magical results" and had given the same treatment to the Gabonese patient. Details about the patient's response have been passed to American researchers who say they will begin tests on primates soon.

Without early treatment, Ebola, which killed 245 people in Zaire last year and 35 people in Gabon this year, has been recorded as fatal in 80 to 90 per cent of cases. There is no known cure for the virus which attacks virtually every organ, liquefying tissue into a mush.

South African medical authorities have been praised for their professionalism in handling the country's first Ebola cases. It was disclosed last week that Marijyn Lahana, a nurse, had contracted the virus while treating the Gabonese doctor.

The doctor, who arrived in South Africa for treatment suffering from what he believed was chronic gastritis, returned home last week, but the nurse remains critically ill on a life-support system after her lungs and kidneys collapsed.

Jailed 'Dapper Don' Gotti ousted as Mafia Godfather

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK



Gotti: to be succeeded by Brooklyn-based 'capo'

THE head of America's largest crime family is reported to have been ousted as Godfather after the Mafia's ruling commission decided he could no longer run the mob from his prison cell.

John "The Dapper Don" Gotti, the snappily dressed New York gangster who seized control of the American Mafia by murdering the previous Godfather in 1985, went to prison for life four years ago for murder and racketeering.

Although locked in his cell for 23 hours a day, Gotti continued to run his Gambino crime family by sending written messages through visitors and taking advantage of his

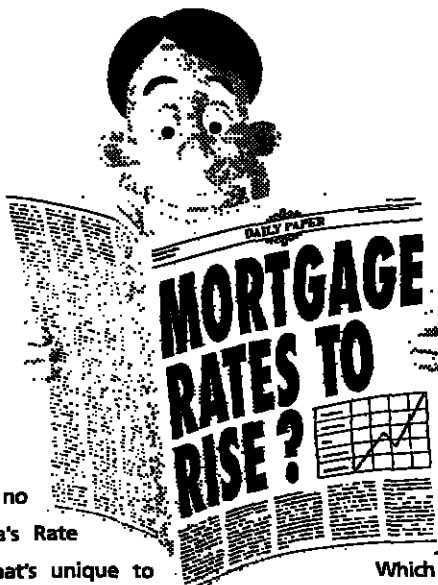
right to speak by telephone to his lawyers.

The *Daily News* in New York reported yesterday that the leaders of the other crime families that make up the commission — the Genovese, Colombo, Bonanno and Luchese clans — had forced Gotti to turn over the reins to an underling. It said the next Mafia chieftain would be Nicholas "Little Nick" Corozzo, a Brooklyn-based "capo" in the Gambino family.

Mr Corozzo, 56, is said to specialise in bookmaking, loan-sharking and extortion in the ethnic Italian areas of Brooklyn. He has, however, never served a day in jail.

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“ Since the Dunblane tragedy the shooting community have been shockingly misrepresented. A totally false impression of our sport has been given. As a result a witch hunt has been launched against tens of thousands of honest, decent people. ”

Albie Fox, Chairman, the Sportsman's Association

The Sportsman's Association

of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

“ Sportsmen have been collectively indicted as accomplices to murder. Sensationalist reporting and intense single issue lobbying have perverted the democratic process. The Firearms Bill ignores the careful advice of Lord Cullen's Inquiry and may aggravate the problem of armed crime in Britain. ”

Mike Yardley, National Spokesman, the Sportsman's Association

WE ARE NOT GUILTY!

Sportsmen and women are being punished for the crimes of Thomas Hamilton.

The Government's new Firearms Bill offers up the shooting sports as a ritual sacrifice. The bill is most unlikely to affect conventional armed crime or prevent another Dunblane tragedy, but, it may:

Cause the loss of 2,000 jobs

Ignore the advice of Lord Cullen's Inquiry

Cost the tax payer more than £300 Million*

* Some estimates put the cost of the legislation at over £1 Billion

Give the public a false sense of security

Confiscate private property on an unprecedented scale*

* Compensation being offered is inadequate

Do nothing to prevent criminals getting guns illegally*

* Most experts believe that there are far more illegally owned guns than legal ones

Don't take our word for it!

Some may say, that inconvenience to the shooting community, or slightly increased taxes for all are nothing as compared to the suffering of the parents and people of Dunblane. That is true. But, in a mature democracy there is only one good reason for legislation of the draconian type proposed - a true public benefit. The Firearms Bill as presented is theatre. It will not work. It scapegoats the innocent and may aggravate the problem of armed crime. It is the product of media-led politics at its hysterical worst. More people are now realising this.

"Emotionalism took over from what should have been the real argument about the effective control of guns and of preventing people like Thomas Hamilton getting hold of them. Shamefully, it led to a

bidding war between the main parties." Editorial, The Daily Telegraph, 20th November, 1996.

"...in the current mood of hysteria, the Government chose to go well beyond Cullen's recommendations... Yet, as Lord Cullen recognised, if existing law had been sensibly implemented, Thomas Hamilton would never have been allowed to possess his guns." Editorial, The Evening Standard, 19th November, 1996.

"For good or ill, the Dunblane parents terrorised the Commons yesterday. That may sound harsh, but how else do you describe the sense of duress hanging over the chamber?" Matthew Parris, The Times 19th November, 1996.

The Sportsman's Association

of Great Britain & Northern Ireland
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Policing failure at Dunblane

Lord Cullen noted in his report that there were critical weaknesses in the system used by Central Scotland Police for carrying out firearms related enquiries. He stated that Thomas Hamilton's access to be entrusted with a firearm was challenged by Detective Sergeant Hughes in November 1991 after the police investigation of a summer camp (but this officer's recommendations were not acted upon by senior colleagues). He also comments that Hamilton had behaved "inappropriately" in showing guns to a family in Linlithgow in 1989. Lord Cullen concluded that "on balance there was a case for revocation which should have been acted upon". Although existing legislation leaves much to be desired, had it been properly applied by Central Scotland Police, Thomas Hamilton would have been denied access to legal firearms.

Source: Page 2, paragraph 1.6, Report of the Public Inquiry into the Shootings at Dunblane Primary School on 13th March 1996.

THE FIREARMS BILL WILL NOT WORK BUT MAY COST THE EQUIVALENT OF 100 NEW SCHOOLS OR 2 HOSPITALS

The Government has revised its estimate for implementing the firearms bill from £25-50 million to £100 million. But, the published costings are still wildly wrong, not least, because they fail to mention the cost of putting 2,000 people on the dole. They only consider costs for the compensation of property loss at figures far below true market value.

The Sportsman's Association has engaged specialist accountants to estimate the real costs of the bill. Their task has been made harder by the inadequacy of available Government statistics. However, they have concluded that the likely cost of the legislation will be £450 million (nearly 1/2 p in the £1 on income tax) with a minimum cost of £300 million. These figures are made up of:

- £56,000,000 (140,000 firearms to be confiscated from approx. 45,000 individuals at an average cost of £400)
- £18,000,000 (ancillary equipment which will become worthless when the Firearms Bill becomes law)
- £30,000,000 (loss of dealer's stock)
- £150,000,000 (costs to the Treasury in dole and retraining of 2,000 specialist employees)
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Even these calculations exclude the increased policing costs and the price of litigation against this mistaken legislation.

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TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SEASON OF SPORT

SPINNING WHEELS

Oliver Holt follows the RAC Rally
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THE ITALIAN JOB

Phil de Glanville makes a winning start as the England captain
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HEADING SOUTH

Atherton's England head for Zimbabwe
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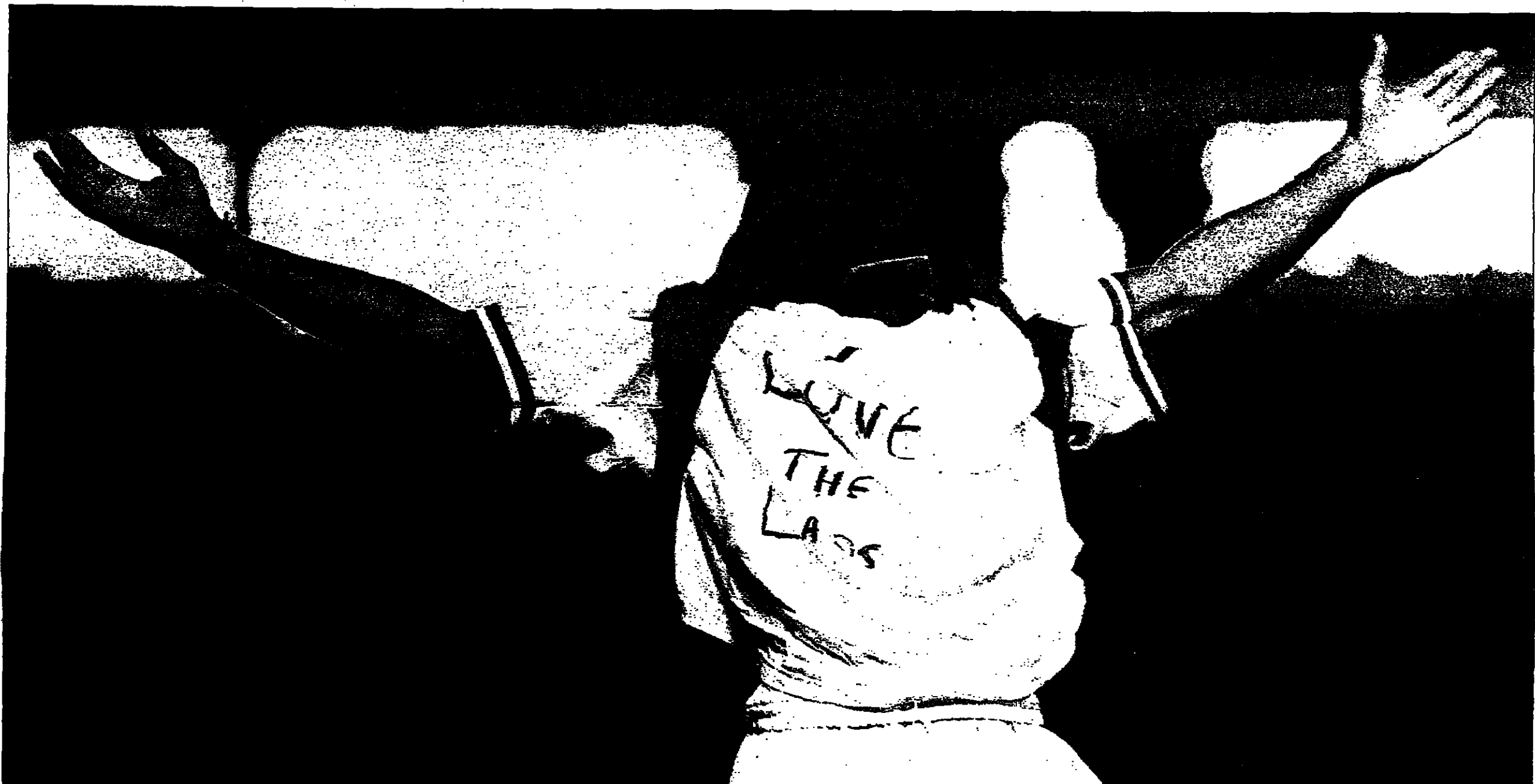
SPORT FOR ALL

Sally Jones goes downhill fast - on a snowboard
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY NOVEMBER 25 1996

WRIGHT ON TARGET AS ARSENAL LIGHT UP GLOOMY Highbury



Wright celebrates, Ravaneli-style, after his goal, revealing a tribute to the spirit in the Arsenal dressing-room which has survived a change of management and a series of personal problems among players

Bergkamp reigns while it pours

Arsenal 3
Tottenham Hotspur 1

By Ron HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IN A heavy and relentless downpour at Highbury yesterday, and a match laced with heavy symbolism, Arsenal scored twice in the last two minutes to win the north London derby game against

mined to stay the pace, to defy that thing called age which, like rust, seemed to seep into so many of their players so long ago. The first symbol, then, came before the kick-off as the names of the ageing Gunners were read out to a backing of pop music with the relentless refrain "18 til I die". The game itself had threatened to die early on. It was such a labyrinth of order, the two meaneast defences in the land at present being augmented from midfield so that minute after minute went by without threat of a goal. This was football for the coaches: beauty is efficiency, Wenger had said on Friday. And with no space to be found, no invention to find any, it was as if two wet blankets of denial had been sent out to smother creativity. Even the floodlights partially gave out in the midst of this organised boredom.

It was to change with a penalty. From a throw-in on the right, Bergkamp, quite outstanding with his vision and use of the ball, began backing into Wilson. They tumbled to the turf, but David Elleray saw no foul. However as Bergkamp rose, Wilson quite palpably brought him back down to earth. Up strode Ian Wright to take the spot kick.

How he loved breaking the deadlock. How he enjoyed sending Ian Walker the wrong way for his 160th goal for Arsenal. And how he celebrated. He lifted his shirt over his head Ravaneli-style to reveal a plain T-shirt on which he had hand-written "I love the lads".

What could it mean? Wenger, the manager, did not know. "He's a celebration specialist," the manager said.

Eventually Wright explained: it was a calculated salute to the great team spirit, the lads who through so many seasons and recently through changing management, have clung together in the cause of Arsenal.

When Wright ceased bearing his message and blowing his kisses, it was Bergkamp whose incision took the eye time and again. He seemed to be playing with a different frame of mind from the others

and, through his unselfishness, he offered Wright two more chances - scored chances to claim a hat-trick and finish the affair.

"I knew Dennis before I came to Highbury," Wenger said. "He looks much sharper now. I think it is very important for him not to get injuries because for a player of his high talent, world-class talent, it can take three games to get back to his level. But he is 27,

and I have told him that at this age you become a huge player, or you go back in your career."

While Tottenham were ruling missed chances, opportunities that both Sheringham and Armstrong uncharacteristically put wide, the game was about to lose its discipline. Tottenham came out fired up, intent on injecting pace and seemingly rather wild aggression. It culminated in a stand-up fight between Armstrong

and Vieira for which both must thank the leniency of the Harrow schoolmaster. Elleray, that the only colour they were shown was yellow. Three minutes after that, the concentration still awry, Sinton broke into the Arsenal box and shot past Lukic. The big goalkeeper, deputising for Seaman, had no luck: the ball hit his right-hand post and before Lukic could turn, it struck him on the back of the shoulder, rebounding for the equalising goal.

Still the fire burned in the downpour. Vieira could so easily have been sent off for a reckless foul on Nielsen. Instead a long and stern lecture seemed to dampen down the lunacy. And after Armstrong once more had lifted a chance over the bar, the sheer perseverance of Arsenal brought its double sting. In the 88th minute, from a Dixon throw-in on the right, Bergkamp intelligently flicked the ball back and there, marauding into attack, Tony Adams, the Arsenal captain, produced an angled, lustrous left-foot shot that entered the net off the shoulder of Carr.

Tottenham's anguish was doubled within seconds. Wright toyed with Wilson at the right corner flag. He turned him this way and that,

he looped the ball high beyond the far post and there Bergkamp was sublime. He controlled it with his left foot, unbalanced his opponent, Carr, and with the right foot guided the ball precisely beyond Walker's reach. He was taken off immediately, clasped by Wenger, a new manager learning enough about north London appetites to conclude: "Maybe, to be accepted here, it's important for me to have

won against Tottenham. I like this derby feeling."

Off stage, Tony Adams was being awarded the champagne for man of the match. Another symbol, an inappropriate one, for the Arsenal captain was high enough on adrenalin and is, of course, one of this country's most public recovering alcoholics.

TOP OF TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	14	9	2	3	25	15	29
Arsenal	14	8	4	2	27	12	28
Liverpool	14	8	4	2	24	16	28
Wimbledon	14	7	4	3	25	16	26
Chelsea	14	6	6	2	23	18	24
Everton	14	6	5	3	22	15	23
Man Utd	14	6	5	3	26	21	23
Aston Villa	14	6	3	5	18	15	21
Tottenham	14	6	2	6	15	14	20
Sheff Wed	14	5	5	4	16	18	20

Tottenham Hotspur for the first time in five attempts. The victory, deserved if only because of the consummate grace and skill displayed throughout by Dennis Bergkamp, put Arsenal into second place in the FA Carling Premiership.

And make no mistake, this team, rejuvenated under their French manager, Arsene Wenger, are obdurately deter-



Wright slots home coolly from the spot at Highbury yesterday drawing first blood in the derby with Tottenham



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Rally coverage slips and stalls in top gear

By yesterday afternoon, it was clear why BBC2's *Top Gear Rally Report* had cast its net quite so wide at the start of the Network Q RAC Rally. As I watched the curtain-raiser on Friday evening, I lost count of the names they thought might be there or thereabouts — ten, 20, 30 ... the list of unfamiliar names and unknown faces went on and on, occasionally interrupted by a Vatanen, Kankkunen or McRae. Martin Brundle got a mention after 25 minutes. I let out a little cheer.

So, now you know that I do not know much about rallying, but, with two thirds of its coverage out of the way, we also know that the BBC was not of a mind to do very much about my or anybody's else ignorance. Sure, it had brought in John Leslie, the former *Blue Peter* presenter,

but that was as far as it was prepared to go. Thereafter, it was *Top Gear Rally Report* as normal — lots of cars sliding round the same corner and the same microphone being shoved through the driver's window of lots of cars. "So, Juhani/Jarmo/Stig/Arvi, a bit slippery out there today." For sure, Tony, for sure.

By yesterday afternoon, however, the scanner-gun approach was beginning to look a little bit more sensible. Juhani Kankkunen, Jarmo Kytölehto and Arvi Vatanen were all out of it, along with Ian Duncan, Gwyndaf Evans and Robbie Head. Back in the mobile control unit, a worried looking BBC producer was busy crossing off names. He had mentioned Armin Schwarz, he had mentioned Stig Blomqvist, hadn't he? Ken Pollock could relax. With one more day of ice



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

and snow to go, he was still covered. The spectacular retirements of Evans and Head during the Chatsworth stage showed exactly why rallying remains so tantalising a television sport. On Saturday, even with the help of the now ubiquitous on-board cameras, the BBC cameras somehow managed to miss every incident of note. Kankkunen's and Kytölehto's date with the same ditch, Vatanen's brush with a mysterious Range Rover, Brundle's spin and Louis Aitken-Walker's gallant rescue of the Formula One star — we missed them all.

On a day when stages such as Pundershaw are 36 miles long, such misses are inevitable and understandable. On 2½ miles through the grounds of one of Britain's best known stately homes they are not. But unless I am very much mistaken (sorry, that's what too much Murray Walker does to you), the BBC came within an amateur video of missing the multiple rolls of first Evans and then Head.

That said, if it wasn't a BBC camera that captured the action, full marks to Pollock and team for getting hold of the footage from somebody who had. As Richard Burns, the former British champion and Leslie's studio guest, bluntly put it: "That's why rallying is exciting, that's why spectators come and watch it."

That's why, for at least one stage of the rally, it would surely be a good idea if organisers and broadcaster came together to plan a stage that was specifically planned with television viewers in mind. A water splash may look great if you are standing 20 yards away, but from the warmth and comfort of the sofa it resembles little more than a large puddle.

Bringing in Leslie as anchorman was a good idea, but he is a long way from threaten-

ing Desmond Lynam for a job, as the hiccup-ridden programme yesterday afternoon showed. Links were fluffed, tapes broke down and some of the interviews with the under-supported Burns went on for what looked — and sounded — like longer than intended.

But at least Leslie has the beginning of an interview technique. His colleagues in the car park, Tony Mason and Mark James, both rather endearingly favour the blunt use of statement rather than anything ending in a question mark. Blomqvist, however, looking more and more like Sir James Goldsmith as the rally continues, appears to have the measure of them. "Everybody's been saying what a terrific drive you've been having in the Skoda." Yes, replied a beaming Blomqvist — and drove off.

Giants in free fall need luck to turn

A DRAMATIC three-pointer, scored right on the final buzzer by Nate Reinking, of Leicester, on Saturday left Manchester Giants contemplating the possibility of a barren second half to the English basketball season (Nicholas Harding writes). Reinking's shot, that gave Leicester victory by 73-72, will put the Giants out of the 7-Up Trophy, unless unlikely results elsewhere conspire in their favour. For a squad that was widely tipped for honours before the season, but is already out of the Classic Cola National Cup and seemingly out of contention for the Budweiser League, prospects look bleak.

Not that Joe Whelton, their coach, would agree. "We're going through a bad patch, that's all," he said. "Every team in the league is going to have a bad patch and thank goodness we're having ours now. Sure it's disappointing, but we're by no means finished. We've enough talent here to turn things round." Luck, as Whelton knows only too well, rarely favours the needy. Leading by nine points and within sight of their first win in four games, the Giants then missed three times from six free throws.

Pakistan fall short

CRICKET: New Zealand completed a convincing 44-run victory over Pakistan in the first Test in Lahore yesterday, dismissing the home side for 231 shortly after tea on the fourth day. It was their first win on Pakistani soil since the 1968-69 tour. For Pakistan, chasing a victory target of 276, Mohammad Wasim made an unbeaten 109 to become the fourth Pakistani to hit a century in his maiden Test, but it was to no avail. Scoreboard, page 40

Obree workshop injury

CYCLING: Graeme Obree, of Scotland, the former world pursuit champion and record-holder, is recovering in Irvine after injuring both legs in a workshop accident. Obree was hurt when a cast iron gas cylinder fell on him as he prepared to make a pair of forks. "The cylinder valve was difficult to adjust and I lost my footing," he said. "The container came down on me just above the knee on both my legs." No bones were broken, but Obree suffered severe tissue damage.

Els homes in on victory

GOLF: Ernie Els, right, and Wayne Westner, of South Africa, won the World Cup by a record 18 shots in front of their own supporters at Somerset West, near Cape Town, yesterday. Els closed with a 67 to finish 16 under-par and took the international trophy for the leading individual. Westner finished three strokes behind in second place after a round of 70.



Goode misses out

BADMINTON: Joanne Goode reached two finals but was beaten in both as England failed to capture any titles at the Scottish Open championships in Glasgow yesterday. Goode and Nick Ponting lost to the new Swedish partnership of Jens Olsson and Astrid Crabo in the mixed doubles and, in partnership with an unwell Gillian Gowers, she lost again in the women's doubles final to Qian Hong and Liu Lu, of China.

Davies stays in touch

GOLF: Karrie Webb, of Australia, compiled a four-under-par 68 to share the lead in the LPGA Tour Championship in Las Vegas with Emilee Klein. Webb and Klein, of the United States, were level at nine under par after three rounds over the Desert Inn course, with Laura Davies, of Great Britain, the Tour's leading money-winner, tied for third place, three shots behind, on 210 after a round of 71 which included three bogeys, two birdies and one eagle.

Searle proves champion

ROWING: Greg Searle, the world record-holder, brought eight hours of competition to a noisy climax by taking the British indoor rowing championship title at Reading yesterday. Many of the 900 competitors remained to watch a final with international and Boat Race overtones, where Searle was pushed closest by Tim Foster, his Atlanta bronze medal crew-mate, who is now racing under Oxford colours.

Honeychurch strikes

TENPIN BOWLING: Cara Honeychurch, of Australia, won the Pepsi World Cup women's singles championship in Belfast on Saturday, overcoming Shalin Zulkifli in the final. Zulkifli, 18, of Malaysia, had dominated the competition until the last day, but Honeychurch ran into form at the right time. Paeng Nepomuceno, 39, from the Philippines, won the men's title for a record fourth time, beating Drew Hylen, of the United States, 243-172 in a one-sided final.

Devils taste defeat

ICE HOCKEY: Cardiff Devils, having previously dropped only one point in nine games, were unexpectedly beaten at home by Newcastle Cobras, for whom Petri Rautainen had four assists in their 5-3 win. Basingstoke Bison brought an end to their run of five defeats, beating Manchester Storm 6-4. They led 6-1 early in the second period, before Storm fought back. Nottingham Panthers continue to find home wins elusive, and were beaten 3-2 by Ayr Scottish Eagles.

TENNIS: SUPERB CONTEST FIT TO RANK ALONGSIDE BORG-McENROE MARATHON AT WIMBLEDON

Steadfast Sampras refuses to yield

FROM DAVID MILLER IN HANOVER

ATRULY epic match. For four hours, Pete Sampras and Boris Becker stretched almost intolerably the limits of each other's resilience and will-power, and the emotions of a 15,000 crowd. If Sampras, by one final stroke in hundreds, was the winner, there were indeed two champions in endeavour.

No other game has the repetitive, moment-by-moment fluctuation that is possible in tennis because of the scoring system. Sampras and Becker, surpassing even their earlier round-robin encounter, wove a drama of mutual anguish and joy as each gained and then relinquished winning positions.

The 1996 final of the Association of Tennis Professionals' world championship will come to be remembered alongside the 1980 Wimbledon final between McEnroe and Borg, when McEnroe won a fourth set tie-break by 18-16, only for Borg to win the final set 6-6. Yesterday, Becker came from two sets to one down to take an extraordinary tie-break 13-11, but was finally felled 3-6, 7-6, 6-7, 6-4.

The third tie-break, a whole match



Becker, magnificent in defeat

on its own, had 13 points against service, two match points for Sampras — both lost on rallies — and four set points for Becker before he secured a fifth. The spectator noise never reached such a crescendo as in that moment.

Jon Irlac, the commercial director of the tournament, had tried to suggest in the morning that the winner, irrespective of who that might be, was world champion of the year. That honour irrevocably already belonged to Sampras on his final ranking, but his victorious victory yesterday, just when it seemed that the prize had slipped his grasp, makes him doubly No 1.

Sampras was asked on court, before receiving his crystal trophy and mega cheque, if he had ever played a more dramatic match. "I don't think so," he said, to an audience splendidly swallowing its disappointment. Would he want to play Becker more frequently? "Maybe not in Germany," he replied, and the crowd warmly accepted his quiet rebuke for their uninhibited bias throughout a wonderful afternoon.

It had been a truly exceptional contest. Both men are the epitome of professionalism, on a par with Faldo

in golf or Morceli in athletics. Each has the focus of a Senna. Their concentration, their sustained level of return of service, their proportion of forcing winners down both flanks, their equanimity under stress, all were a blueprint for any student of the game.

There were moments in the last two sets when either of them could have been forgiven for losing courage, for believing luck had turned away, or that this was not meant to be their day, which is how it sometimes feels. Neither conceded to that temptation, neither yielded until, in a last 24-stroke rally symbolic of the entire match, Becker's backhand caught the net on Sampras's fourth match point, and there was no longer anything for which to fight.

If sport is to be about things that are worthwhile, and not just about money, they include honour and dignity in defeat. Both players had shown these qualities this week, never mind that both have earned more than £14 million in prize-money alone. For a while yesterday, it seemed that Becker, four years the senior at 29, would belie his age, would find a deeper reserve of strength and that fatigue would overhaul his opponent.

At the start of the week, Becker had said that the reason he still plays is not for money but the ambition of again being No 1. "If the youngsters play only for the money," he said, "they will not make the top ten." How supremely he now proved his point. Yet he was up against a man who has already this year exhibited unusual courage, refusing to quit the baseline when vomiting from fatigue during his match against Corretja in the US Open. Yesterday, those dark Greek eyes never blinked, never wavered.

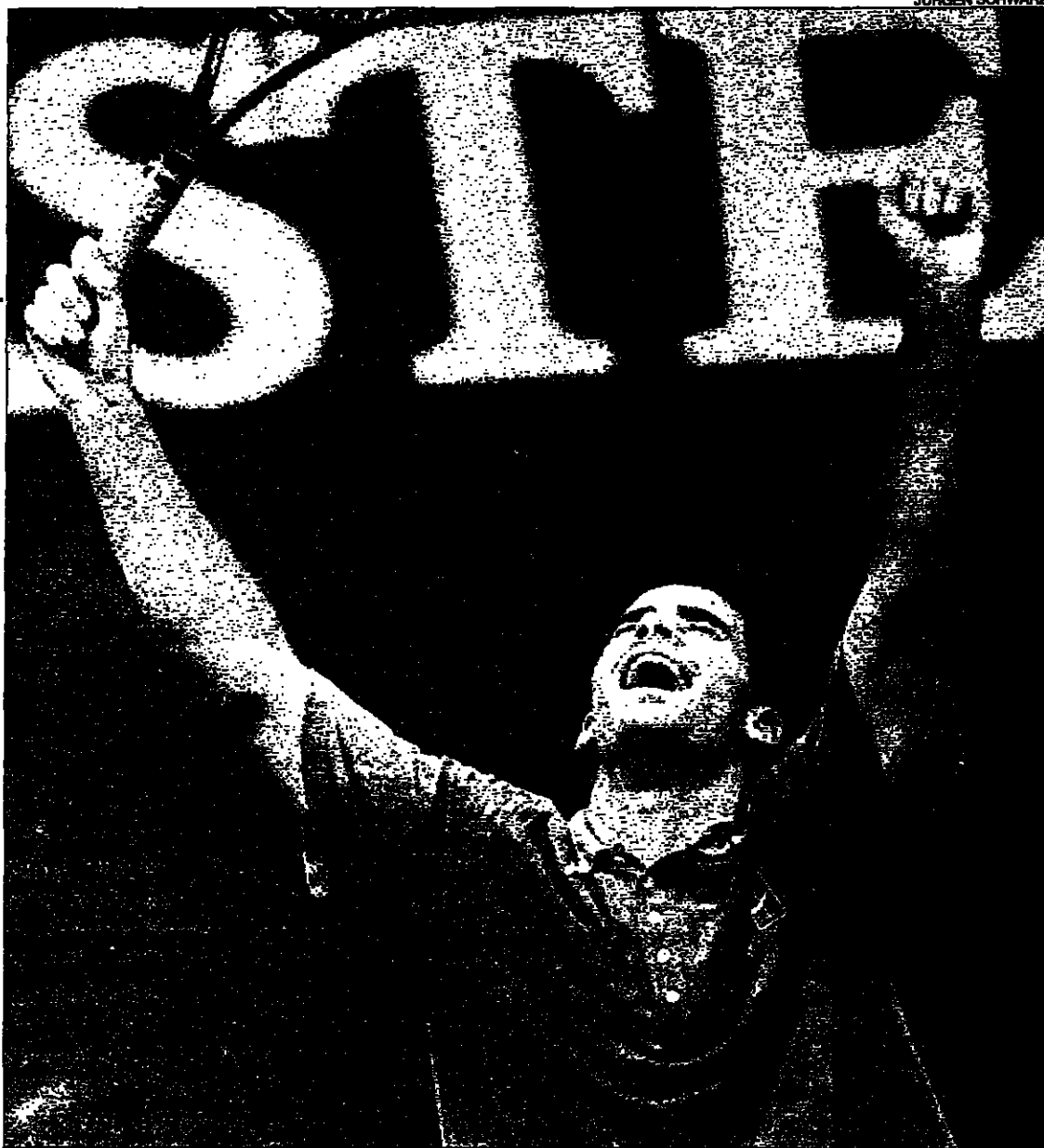
Becker, bone hard in manner and action, had swept through the first set. Sampras seemed to have missed a chance in the second when he failed to take two break points for a 4-2 lead, but was then in command during the tie-break, securing the third of consecutive set points with a backhand volley, followed by a fearsome howl of self-reassurance — "Wow!"

He took the second tie-break, too. Becker double-faulted critically at 4-4, and with the odd game lead on service, the initiative between tiring players lay with Sampras. None could have forecast the path of the tie-break about to come.

Back and forth swung the score: Sampras's match points spun giddily away at 6-5 and 9-8, yet neither could Becker grasp his succession of set points until finally Sampras hit a forehand volley beyond the baseline at 12-11.

Exhaustion was etched in the faces of both players as they grimly moved to four-all in the final set.

Twice Sampras had break points for 5-4, twice they eluded him. The heads of perspiration on Becker's forehead portrayed his refusal to yield. Then a glorious backhand pass by Sampras down the line gave him the game: only the second time he had extended Becker to deuce. And with the steadfastness for which he is famous he held his serve for another afternoon of glory.



Sampras, his status underlined, shows his elation at emerging victorious from a gruelling five-set duel

Graf finds more hidden reserves

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN NEW YORK

ONE morning, Steffi Graf will wake up free of aches and pains, with her private life in perfect order and without a care in the world. Then, she will know that the time has come to stop playing tennis.

For the past 2½ years, her every appearance has been prefaced by tales of woe over her career-threatening injuries, her family problems and her tax affairs. Despite the setbacks, though, Graf keeps winning.

On Saturday, she reached the finals of the Chase Championships by defeating Jana Novotna, her old rival, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3. It was not an easy victory. Over the past two months, Novotna has been playing some of the best tennis of her career and she put everything into this encounter. Novotna was in command during the first set and had chances to close the match out in the second. Even when she was forced into a third set, she sped to a 2-0 lead.

Slowly, however, Graf moved up a gear and, whereas Novotna was playing flat out from start to finish,

Graf was able to find a bit extra when she needed it. "I was lucky to be able to pull that match out," she said. "I am not at the height of my game, especially on the serve and return. Not to be at 100 per cent and still get to the final is pretty good. I think."

Quite how she manages it is a mystery to Graf. "I just keep on doing it," she said. "I still have belief in me that I can do it and I just basically don't give up. I really don't know what else it is."

Novotna, like most of her colleagues on the women's tour, is puzzled, too. She has been doing battle with Graf for the past 14 years and only occasionally has Novotna come out on top. Her first trip away from what was then Czechoslovakia was as a 14-year-old junior playing in the European championships. Novotna remembers it well, her first-round opponent being one Steffi Graf, who beat her in three sets.

Since then, the meetings have been many and the result usually the same. "She is just a great champion."

Novotna said. "She has proved that on so many occasions and she is proving that every day to all of us now. Steffi is my destiny, she is the one who always stops me even when I am playing my best tennis — she is always there."

Not that Novotna was too disappointed with the result. Unlike some of the more petulant personalities in tennis, she is a philosophical soul. There is no shame in playing your best and almost beating the top player and one of the greatest in history. She enjoyed the match and gave the crowd their money's worth. It was a satisfying day's work.

"I should be a little more disappointed, but I can't be because I am happy with the way I played; but in the end, she was the better player," Novotna said.

In the other semi-final, Martina Hingis, Graf's potential successor as world No 1, beat Iva Majoli 6-2, 4-6, 6-1 and would have won sooner but for a slight lapse of concentration in the second set.

BRIDGE: HIGH-QUALITY FIELD RETAINS HOMELY ATMOSPHERE AT CLANDON PARK

Sandqvist reaps benefit of bold move

BY ROBERT WRIGHT

THE destination of £21,000 in prize-money, a record for a British bridge tournament, was decided over the weekend, when the finals of *The Times* Midland Private Bank National Bridge Challenge were completed.

Set in the magnificent Marble Hall at Clandon Park, a National Trust property near Guildford, Surrey, the 116 finalists in the four categories — expert, men's, women's and mixed — enjoyed two days' competition seemingly oblivious to the foul weather outside.

One of the primary aims of the Challenge was to dispel the elitist image that surrounds competitive bridge. Judging by the wide cross-



section of the players at the finals, that was achieved in spades.

The expert's category attracted a high-quality field with several international players. However, victory — and the £5,000 winners' cheque — went to Nicholas

Sandqvist and John Short, neither of whom has yet represented his country. Nonetheless, Sandqvist came to Great Britain from Sweden 18 months ago to play professionally. Now based in Hammersmith, he plays most of his bridge at TGRs, a bridge club in Marble Arch.

While clearly pleased, Short, his partner, was rather more animated. "I'm just delighted I didn't let Nick down," he said. "We've been playing together for about six months — he is top class and just keeps carrying me through."

"It has been a treat to play in such wonderful surroundings as we have had this weekend. Most tournaments are played in smoky clubs, but this has been fantastic. The atmo-

sphere among the players has been unusually friendly."

The men's division was won by Tom Gunn and Robert Hogan. Gunn, head chef at the popular Ed's Diner on the King's Road, plays most of his bridge at the Young Chelsea Club. He said, rather tongue in cheek: "I'm just a social player. This is one of my hobbies." The women's winners were Norrie Buxton and Kate Manners, who play three times a week at Roehampton.

The winner who most epitomised the spirit of the tournament was Paula Alderson, who, with Mike Baynes, triumphed in the mixed event. She said: "I've only been playing for three years. I work very hard at it playing twice a week with my partner, but I still have lessons."



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مركز الامم

MOTOR RALLYING

Evans leads exodus as ice claims top drivers

BY OLIVER HOYT

THE tradition in recent years has been to route the Network Q RAC Rally through picturesque parts of the country such as Chatsworth and Taton Park on Sundays. The idea is that it gives casual spectators a glimpse of the stars of the sport. This year, the organisers reckoned without Saturday. By yesterday, there were no stars left.

It was the ice that did it more than the snow, the mud or the driving rain. At times, it reduced drivers who usually career through the forests, slewing their cars from side to side at high speed like carefree cavaliers, to men and women who looked like nervous learners trying to crawl their way through their first lesson.

When the cars returned to Chester in the dark of early evening yesterday, the rally was led, as it has been from the start, by Armin Schwarz, a journeyman driver in a Toyota Celica, who was expected to play second fiddle to his teammate, Juha Kankkunen.

Schwarz led by more than five minutes from Masao Karioka, of Japan, after 17 of the rally's 27 stages. Stig Blomqvist, a 50-year-old former world champion who won this event 25 years ago, took advantage of his Skoda's lack of power on treacherous surfaces where extra horsepower is a disadvantage, to consolidate his third place.

The dominant image of yesterday's competition, though, was the pale face of

Gwyned Evans, who had been the leading British survivor at the end of the first day, peering through the broken windscreen of his shattered Ford Escort as he tried to drive the stricken car the few miles to the end of the end of the Chatsworth stage.

He had skidded on ice exiting a corner, clipped a tree stump at about 60mph and then braced himself as his car screeched through the air, rolled twice and came to rest in the trees. The Escort's roll-over was bent and Evans, who complained of back and neck pains, spent last night under observation in hospital in Chesterfield.

"There was not enough room for us to get out because of our helmets," said Howard Davies, Evans's co-driver. "The roof had caved in a bit and, when the marshals tried to pull us out, we were stuck. In the end, we had to get our helmets off before we could get out. I did question whether the rally should go ahead for safety reasons. I thought that with the problems we were having, it would take an ambulance an awful long time to reach someone."

Evans, though, was the last in a parade of big names to fall foul of the conditions. An event already robbed of Colin McRae, Carlos Sainz and Tommi Mäkinen, the new world champion, because it is not part of this season's world championship, quickly lost what was left of its leading



Evans and Davies momentarily hold up a coat to stop water entering their damaged Ford Escort during the RAC Rally yesterday

attractions. Ari Vatanen, a former world champion, was the first to go, smashing into a rock on the first stage in the Kielder Forest on Saturday morning and limping out of it on three wheels. On his way to the second stage, with his co-driver, Mike Calvin, riding in the boot to give the car some balance, he came upon a Range Rover heading towards him in the middle of the road and slid into a ditch to avoid it. There was no way back.

Kankkunen, the four-times world champion and pre-rally

favourite, did not last much longer. He slid off on the third stage in Hyndlee and damaged his engine. Jarmo Kytölehto, another highly-rated Finn, came off at the same corner and got bogged down in deep snow. Alister McRae, the younger brother of last year's world champion, was another early casualty.

The farce continued uninterrupted yesterday. Some competitors were forced to slow almost to a halt as they slid inexorably from the gravel tracks on patches of ice. Often,

as they inched their way back on, they were caught by the following car, a rare sight in a sport that is supposed to pit competitors against the clock, not each other.

So a rally already condemned to the status of a sideshow gradually took on a surreal air. Soon after Evans had crashed, Robbie Head, driving a Maxi Megane, rolled his car five times after hitting the same tree and, although he was unhurt, his car was beyond repair. Many of the competitors' support

vehicles got stuck in snowdrifts as they tried to return over the Pennines from Chatsworth.

Martin Brundle, the Formula One driver guesting in another Escort, at least improved his position from ninth at the start of the day to 73rd after abandoning the understandable caution that restricted him on Saturday. The omens for today, though, are not good. The first stage, at Dyfnant in Mid Wales, has been cancelled because it is snowbound.

RALLY DETAILS

FIRST DAY (leading positions): 1. A Schwarz (Ger, Toyota) 2nd 10min 51sec; 2. M Karioka (Japan, Subaru) at 4min 32sec; 3. S Blomqvist (Swe, Skoda) at 10:36; 4. J Kytölehto (Fin, Ford) at 12:35; 5. G Evans (GB, Ford) at 12:42; 6. P Sibera (Cz, Skoda) at 13:58.

SECOND DAY (leading positions): 1. S Hill (GB, Mitsubishi) 3min 25sec; 2. Blomqvist at 3min 30sec; 3. D Buckley (GB, Nissan) at 4:40; 4. J Pons (GB, Subaru) at 4:56; 5. D Humphreys (GB, Ford) at 7:00; 6. M Higgins (GB, Nissan) at 7:01; 7. J Foster (GB, Ford) at 7:02; 8. G Evans (GB, Ford) at 7:03; 9. G Coe (GB, Vauxhall) at 7:04.

OVERALL LEADERS (after two days): 1. Schwarz 2nd 45min 47sec; 2. Karioka at 4min 51sec; 3. Blomqvist at 12:01; 4. Sibera at 16:48; 5. Blomqvist at 17:22; 6. G Coe at 18:00; 7. Pons at 18:01; 8. Higgins at 23:08; 9. G Coe (GB, Vauxhall) at 24:32.

ATHLETICS

Far-flung results encourage Clarke

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

A ROAD relay in Japan may seem to have nothing in common with a cross country in Gateshead, but comparisons were inevitable on Saturday. The Ekiden relay, in Chiba, and the Safeway cross country, in Gateshead, were the last races by which Great Britain's selectors could gauge form before determining their squad for the European cross country championships in Charleroi, Belgium, on December 15.

British performances at both venues augur well for the prospects of the men improving on the European team bronze medals they won last winter. So well did so many athletes run that David Clarke, the team manager, had a full night's sleep on Saturday after the squad had been picked. He was worried not over whether the correct selections had been made, more for the feelings of those who had been omitted.

Clarke's sympathy for those who had been left out is born of his own experience two years ago, when he was overlooked despite insisting to the selectors that he was ready to run well.

"Everyone of these athletes is in good shape and those you leave out, you know you are putting their aspirations on hold for a few months, until the world championships," Clarke said. "I empathise with those poor devils."

The squad will not be announced until tomorrow, giving two days to check that those picked wish to accept. While the British women are not medal contenders, the men are potential champions. "We have the nucleus of a team to do better than third place," Clarke said. Andrew Pearson, third in the 1995 European Championships, won two short distance races at one afternoon in Gateshead, his first cross country outing this winter, to confirm his worth for selection.

Keith Cullen and Jon Brown, fourth and sixth last year, had given ample evidence of fitness prior to Saturday and the form of these three heights the importance of making sure that each of the others selected for the squad of six is capable of finishing in the top 20. Only the lack of a solid fourth scorer denied Britain the team title last year.

Christian Stephenson, Darius Burrows and Paul Taylor all performed superbly in Chiba, Spencer Barden triumphed at Gateshead, and Neil Caddy has won two big domestic races this month. How do you compare performances in Chiba with Gateshead? "With difficulty," Clarke said.

He added, however: "It has come down to the people who are the best cross country runners at the moment." So we must assume that Barden and Caddy have been included.

The British women's team will be missing Paula Radcliffe, whose return to racing after injury has been pencilled in for Durham on December 28, and Liz Talbot, the team's highest finisher last year, who is attending a wedding.

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HOCKEY

Early goals leave Reading in doldrums

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

ELEVEN of the 17 matches scheduled for yesterday in the National League were postponed because of bad weather, play being permissible in only two of the six premier division games.

Persistent rain did not prevent play at Reading, but Reading did not stand up well to Old Loughtonians, who won 3-1. It was an important win for Loughtonians, who took a 3-0 lead with goals by Lee, Thompson and Robinson in the first half.

With Mark Hoskins still absent on study leave, Reading lost some of their sharpness and their only response was a goal by Ashdown two minutes into the second half.

Daniel Laslett scored four goals from open play for Canterbury in the 6-1 defeat of Barford Tigers. By half-time the score was 3-0, Harker having added to two early goals by Laslett.

Barford Tigers could not contain the fast-moving Canterbury side, for whom Laslett added two more goals. Degen scored late in the second half for Barford.

Gloucester City gained valuable ground in the first division with a 4-3 victory over Brooklands. Gloucester established a 3-1 lead by half-time with goals by Stokes, Boydell and Tredgett. Maguire replied for Brooklands.

Gloucester increased their lead to 4-1 with a goal by Clive from a short corner, but Brooklands hit back strongly with Remison converting two short corners in quick succession to reduce the lead to 4-3. Four Gloucester City players were under temporary suspension at various times in the last 17 minutes.

Bromley defeated Harleston Magpies 3-2 for their second win in nine matches. Graham Jones, Henderson and Haines, from a short corner, scored for Bromley, who led 3-1 until Gill converted a short corner for Harleston Magpies, whose earlier goal was obtained by Thomas.

The match between Firebrands and City of Portsmouth was moved to Clifton College as the Firebrands pitch was waterlogged.

City of Portsmouth won 2-1 with goals by Boswell and Boyce. Benton replied for Firebrands.

Results, page 40

Sharland provides lesson in finishing

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

IT TOOK Kate Sharland just 43 seconds to open Leicester's account at Doncaster and lay the foundations for her team's first victory of the season as they won 2-0. Sharland, an A level student from Hinckley, added a second in the seventh minute, but, although earning three priceless points, it was not enough to help Leicester to move off the bottom of the table. It was, though, an important psychological victory.

"It was more than just a good win," Kevin Blanks, the manager, said, "because we not only completely and utterly dominated the game, we didn't concede a goal. We meet the league leaders, Slough, on Saturday and keeping a clean sheet has shown the players what they are capable of."

Purley Miller, the England under-21 forward, set up both goals for Sharland and, in the opinion of Blanks, should have scored a couple herself. "It goes like that, though, and on another day she'll put them away," Blanks said, "but she did have a superb match."

At Slough, the home team and pre-season favourites beat the champions when they scored three second-half goals to overcome Hightown 3-1. Tina Cullen capitalised on a defensive error.

Hightown ahead in the 32nd minute and it took three goals in eight minutes, including a brace by Mandy Nicholls, the Olympian, to steer Slough home.

Sue Chandler, the Slough captain, is adamant that there are still several sides in contention for the title. None more so than the Ipswich, the cup holders, who remain level on points with their rivals but second on goal difference after a 3-0 home win against Trojans, the newcomers.

Sandie Lister, the former England and Great Britain captain, converted a second-minute penalty stroke with Vickey Dixon, Lister's former international team-mate, setting up the chances for Sarah Bamfield to score two second-half goals.

At the top of the first division, Olton extended their 100 per cent record to seven matches with a 3-0 win at Sunderland, and Loughborough Students maintained their unbeaten run at the head of the second division.

GOLF: FORMER RYDER CUP PLAYER FACED WITH UNCERTAIN FUTURE AFTER LOSING TOUR PLACE

Sherry fortified by setbacks to career

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

FOR a man named Sherry, being 70 miles from Jerez is not a bad place to be plying your trade at the European Tour qualifying school. When you are 6ft 5in, and used to being the tallest man in any company, being overshadowed by the Rock of Gibraltar does no harm either.

It is not yet Christmas for Gordon Sherry, but it might be the start of a new year. After a series of events, from glandular fever to the death last month of his caddy in a road accident in Portugal, Sherry is entitled to feel that the seven months of his professional career have been blighted. Instead, he has chosen to regard it all as a learning experience from which to launch himself into his first full year as a professional.

"I don't put any pressure on myself," he said yesterday. "I am not nervous about this. I just have to be patient. It is only golf, after all. I wish I had not been ill. I wish the glandular fever had been diagnosed more quickly and I wish I had not had to play those tournaments when I obviously felt dreadful, but what am I worried about after what happened to my caddy?"

"My year has been a great

experience. I am only 22. I got my degree. I know I am good enough to compete at the highest level. Just because my golf has not been good does not mean it has been a disastrous year. What happened to my caddy puts golf into perspective."

These are the sort of positive thoughts that will stand Sherry, the most exciting British amateur golfer to emerge for years, in good stead over the coming months. Golf is debilitating in the way that each stroke can prey on your mind.

Just ask Mike McLean, who birdied two of his last three holes to get back to six over par, and then admitted that he had to struggle all the time to remove all the negative thoughts from his mind.

In golf, it is not the manner in which the scores are compiled so much as the total number of strokes, and though Sherry's fourth round was poor — it was a 77, five

over par — he was three over par all told and on course to finish among the leading 40 players when the six rounds are concluded tomorrow and thus gain his playing privileges on the European Tour in 1997. The cut fell at seven over.

In this, he has already done better than Paul Way, who was 18 over par, and left the course with gloom written all over his face and uncertain what the future held. There had been a faint hope Way, a

former Ryder Cup player, when his two opening 81s were followed by a 69, the day's lowest score at San Roque.

Putting, though, did for Way at the Sotogrande Old course in his fourth round. He four-putted one green and three-putted another on his way to a 75. At 18 over par, Way was well and truly out of it. "I'll just keep at it, but I don't really know what I'll do," he said.

For Sherry, there is still so much to do. The enjoyment that always used to be present is back on his face — though it was noticeably absent after bad shots in his fourth round. He is down to 17 stone and fit, and the brushes that he had with colleagues, such as Frank Nobilo, concerning his on-course etiquette at professional events last summer are forgotten.

"I need to learn to be more patient," Sherry said, "but most of all I know I have to be happy because that is when I play my best golf. What has happened to me will stand me in good stead, because I am not sure much more could have happened to me in 1996."

With that, he walked off to the practice ground — to hit more balls toward the sun that was setting behind Gibraltar and to remember that life was good after all.

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Norman maintains home rule

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN SYDNEY

STATISTICS show that, in Australia during the past ten years, only 11 people were killed by shark attack. That could be because the habitat of the country's most predatory great white is the golf course.

Yesterday, at The Australian, in Sydney, Greg Norman, the shark in question, was in devious mood of old, gobbling up a field of mainly minnows, to win the Australian Open for successive years, his fifth time in all and for the first time on the course where he made his Open debut as a professional, in 1976.

It was Norman's first vic-

tory anywhere since he won the Doral Ryder Open in Florida in March and a sign that he is recovering his appetite after his collapse at the Masters in Augusta in April. Admittedly, there was no Nick Faldo here to go for the jugular, but, in front of large, sometimes rowdy crowds — Tiger Woods, 23, had encountered nothing quite like it — Norman never lost concentration.

"The support was great, but it can be a distraction as well," he said, "but I was really motivated."

Norman, who finished on 280, the only man under par, was never in trouble. He set

out four shots ahead of Klas Eriksson, of Sweden. He ended up 11 shots ahead of the Eriksson, from Vaxjo, who scored 76 in the company of Norman, whose 69, three under, included birdies at the 3rd, 6th and 12th, enough to keep things comfortable.

Wayne Grady, the US PGA champion in 1990, had a 69 of his own, to finish second, eight shots behind Norman.

David Snell, 26, from New Zealand, was third, on 290, with Eriksson fourth on 291. Woods shared fifth place on 292 with a group that included Paul McGinley, of Ireland.

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SNOOKER

Doherty extends his dominance of Davis

BY PHIL YATES

ONLY an inspirational performance from Stephen Hendry prevented Ken Doherty from winning the 1994 United Kingdom championship. Two years on, Doherty now feels that he is fully equipped to capture the title.

Doherty, who constructed total clearances of 140 and 141 in his previous two outings, reached the quarter-finals with an efficient 9-5 victory over Steve Davis at Preston Guild Hall yesterday.

The bulk of the damage was done on Saturday as, by stealing two frames on the pink and another on the black, Doherty established a somewhat flattering 6-2 overnight lead. From that point, Davis was always kicking against the wind.

Davis, who won the event six times between 1980 and 1987, does not score as heavily as in his heyday and has not added to his unprecedented portfolio of 70 tournament

wins since the Regal Welsh Open in January 1995.

Even so, his appetite for competition remains undiminished. Davis won the opening frame of the final session and was leading 53-5 in the next when Doherty compiled a clinical 58 clearance to blue. That brought up 7-3 for Doherty, which swiftly became 8-3, thanks to a 67 break.

Davis then displayed his stubborn streak. He easily accounted for the twelfth frame with a run of 81 and recovered from a 40-point deficit in the next to snatch it on the pink. Unflustered, Doherty compiled a 66 break in the fourteenth for his sixth victory over Davis in their past seven meetings.

Hendry, the title-holder, became the first player through to the quarter-finals on Saturday when he beat Anthony Hamilton 9-1 in his most effective performance of the season so far.

BALLROOM DANCING: NATION'S TRADITIONAL DOMINANCE UNDER THREAT

Britain invests in a golden future

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

A NEW fund to help young dancers to realise their dreams of Olympic gold is to be set up by leading coaches and promoters in the wake of fears that Great Britain's dominance in ballroom dancing could soon be at an end.

The initiative comes as a survey showed that while the number of British juveniles and juniors on the open competitive circuit has remained steady over the past decade, they are now far outnumbered by couples from other countries who are prepared to travel the world to take titles.

A fund is considered essential to help to pay for leading coaches to visit the many hundreds of dance schools around the country; to help with sponsorship of the most talented dancers; and to finance team trips to championships abroad. According to a survey published at the British closed championships at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, this weekend, the number of British junior couples compet-

ing in open festivals at Blackpool has fallen from 77 in 1985 to 71 this year, and the number of juveniles has risen slightly, from 28 to 36, over the same period. Yet the number of foreign juniors has risen from 73 in 1985 to 155 this year and in the juvenile bracket the increase was from 22 to 68.

In the adult professional and amateur bracket, the dance sport scene has changed even more dramatically and in a shorter time. In 1989, 32 British professionals and 102 amateurs competed at the open British, held each year at Blackpool in May; this year there were 35 British professionals and 77 amateurs. Over the same period, the number of foreign couples rose from 179 to 457 in the professional bracket, and from 482 to 964 in the amateurs.

The concern is that although still possessing the world champions in Marcus and Karen Hilton, from Rochdale, Britain is about to lose its hold on this sport just at the point when the hoped-for full Olympic recognition is granted.

"The simple reality is that the foreign competition has got better with far greater support," Freddie Boulwood, chairman of the British Dance Council, the sport's governing body, said at an open forum to debate the problem at Blackpool on Saturday.

"We are faced with how best to capture the abundance of natural talent that is inherent in British dancers, and how best to nurture it." While thousands of teenagers are learning to dance the ten modern and Latin dances used in ballroom dancing, few progress beyond medals and inter-school competitions to the open circuit. Although can be a factor, research has shown that sports such as golf, football, swimming and riding can be as expensive when a teenager shows exceptional talent or ability.

Jacqui Donaldson, a teacher from Farnham, Surrey, said some teachers were reluctant to push pupils forward into competitions for fear they would be poached by rivals. "Some professionals do ap-

proach other people's pupils," she said.

Christopher Hawkins, who with his partner, Hazel Newberry, is Britain's top amateur, said: "We have to find ways of introducing more dancers to the business. We all want to see the production of more champions for this country." He called for more young dancers to be channelled through to the open circuit, and for a greater team spirit. "We need to travel together and support one another when going abroad."

Hawkins and Newberry, from London, went on to win the British closed amateur championship on Saturday night, defeating 60 other couples to be placed first in all five dances. Their performance, displaying supreme fitness and unity, established a wider gap between them and Britain's No.2 pairing, Alan and Donna Shingler, from Caterham, who had come close to beating them in an earlier battle in the Midlands.

Results, page 40

Juninho and Ravanelli are isolated problems



Juninho: indefatigable

A rickety wooden wharf, gnarled by time and twisted where it meets the giant shadow of Middlesbrough's Riverside Stadium. Nobody would notice it save for the fact that a giant red and white sign has been pinned on its rotting planks. "Unsafe", it says.

They do not like reminders of the past in this part of the city, where escape to the future has been promised them in the present through the big, exotic spending of their football club, but, somehow, the trappings of decay hang on. Recently, they have even been threatening to make a comeback.

If Gullit, Vialli, di Matteo, Zola and company have brought excitement and hope to Chelsea, then the recruitment of Juninho, Ravanelli

and Emerson seems to have created an undercurrent of fear in this part of the North East, based largely on a dread that they will reject their new surroundings and return the club to the way things used to be.

So, on Saturday afternoon, more than 90 minutes before their team took the field against Manchester United, the latest club mentioned in connection with Ravanelli, families of nervous supporters sat in the rubble car park next to the shipyard opposite the stadium and waited for Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, to be interviewed on the radio.

They heard him say again that Ravanelli was not for sale, that Juninho had made his recent pledge of allegiance to Middlesbrough of his own free will and that Emerson would be back in the team soon.

Oliver Holt on a lack of support for the imports in Middlesbrough's 2-2 draw with the champions

Then, reassured, they pulled on their warm clothes, fitted their Krookloks and marched off past the wharf, over a little bridge and into their new arena.

Unfortunately, though, their fears are well founded. Their team would be nothing were it not for their expensive imports. Middlesbrough are like Juninho's Brazilian homeland, fronted by a tiny, mega-rich elite, devoid of a middle class, dominated by an overwhelming majority of the disadvantaged. Robson, in his headlong pursuit of Premiership domination, has neglected to build the foundations for his tower block.

They did not play badly against the United side that gave full league debuts to O'Kane, Thorniley and Clegg because of injuries to Giggs, Irwin and the Neville brothers. They showed spirit and determination in twice coming from a goal behind to earn their draw, but almost everything of worth came from one axis, the Juninho-Ravanelli supply line.

It was the Brazilian's pass and the Italian's darting run and precise finish that brought them their first equaliser, midway through the first half, after United had sliced open their defence with a deep cross from Cantona, a volleyed lay-off from

Beckham and a brilliantly controlled header from Keane nine minutes earlier.

A minute before half-time, it was Juninho who lifted a delicate pass over United's flat-footed defence to Ravanelli, who wasted his second good opportunity of the game by shooting as soon as the ball dropped rather than advancing towards Schmeichel.

Ravanelli, the former Juventus striker, limped off in the 76th minute with a twisted ankle, soon after May seemed to have won the game for United with a header from Beckham's free kick. The match seemed lost. Beck, Ravanelli's Danish strike partner, had been anonymous; only Moore, in midfield, and Fleming, the left back, had given Ravanelli and Juninho any semblance of support.

Juninho, though, kept pressing and his prompts earned Middlesbrough a free kick that Scholes beat down with his arms. Hignett, once a United reserve, drove the penalty into the roof of the net to earn his team a draw with nine minutes to go.

That still left Middlesbrough with a record of only three wins in the past 14 games. The supporters are already wondering how many green shoots will be left when the winds from the North Sea become less icy and the bleak winter gives way to spring.

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-2-2) G Walsh, N Cox, S McKee, D Whyte, C Fleming, C Hignett, R Macleod, A Moore, Juninho, F Ravanelli (sub), P Stamp, 76min, M Beck.

Pressure on Evans to take tough decisions

Liverpool 1
Wimbledon 1

By DAVID MADDOCK

ROY EVANS, the Liverpool manager, will have plenty to mull over at breakfast this morning. In his ears, there is likely to be an unfamiliar noise, a distinctly uncomfortable sensation. It will be the echo of booing that coursed around Anfield at the final whistle on Saturday.

For possibly the first time in his managerial career, Evans bore the brunt of the supporters' ire. Against Wimbledon, the Kop, famous for its wit and generosity, ignored the admirable spirit of the ungainly visitors to turn instead on their own. Evans must be wondering why, and why now?

The answer is expectation. For the first time since he succeeded Graeme Souness, it is expected — nay demanded — that Evans produces a trophy this season; and not any old trophy, but the champ-

Full results and league tables Page 35

ionship. Liverpool should have progressed smoothly to the top of the FA Carling Premiership. They scored after 33 seconds, dominated the rhythm of the game in the first half and — not surprisingly after such an opening — had enough chances to have canted to victory.

The reason that they did not probably lies as much with Evans as with Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager. Kinnear has instilled in his compact side a pack ethos, a feeling of hunting together, but he has also produced a spirit of adventure and it is working wonderfully, as 15 matches unbeaten will testify. They deserved their point, possibly more.

Evans has fostered no such spirit. He has a talented squad and he is a nice guy, but nice guys come last in management, and it may be time for him to become more prickly if Liverpool are to win the title.

A member of the Anfield backroom staff for 25 years, Evans decided on the gentle approach as an antidote to the abrasive regime of Souness. It worked to an extent, but is there enough respect for the manager now the pressure is on? It may be an illusion, but it seems that Evans is shying away from making tough

decisions. Stan Collymore is one the midfield another. Collymore scored a good goal within the first minute, capitalising on a mistake by Blackwell in the centre circle to race away and sidestep calmly past Sullivan. Much of his play thereafter, though, was selfish. Too often, he took the glory route when a simple pass was more appropriate.

Worse, Collymore does not work hard when he does not have the ball. Thus, he is frequently left standing idle in the space that Robbie Fowler usually exploits. The result? A largely ineffective Collymore and a totally ineffective Fowler. Surely, the time has come for Evans to bite the bullet, admit that he made a mistake and ship out a player who has contributed nothing to team spirit.

As for the midfield, it was obvious when Patrick Berger emerged as a second-half substitute that he should have started the match, but that would have meant dropping Redknapp or Barnes, who prefer the same holding role. One has to go, and it is an awful decision to make, but that is what managers are for.

Liverpool still carved out chances. Blackwell flicking a first-half effort by Collymore off the line and Collymore shooting from an acute angle when Fowler was well-placed. McAteer panicked when he had imaginatively carved out a chance, and Barnes twice shot tamely in good positions.

Wimbledon are no mugs, either. They always seemed capable of clawing their way back, and did so after 67 minutes. It was a well-worked goal, too. Ardley sent Gayle racing down the right and, when James rashly deserted his line in pursuit, it was the easiest of tasks for the forward to cut a pass inside for Leamann to find the unguarded net.

Wimbledon are fourth, and have three home games before Christmas that could yet allow them to enter the new year in the top three. An illusion? "We have always finished the season stronger than we started, and if we do that this time, then Europe is not impossible," Kinnear said. "We all have our dreams, you know, even Wimbledon; and Europe is not a bad dream."

LIVERPOOL (4-2-2) J. Jones, J. McGovern, M. Wright, S. Collymore, P. Berger, 68 — S. Collymore, R. Fowler.

WIMBLEDON (4-2-2) N. Sullivan, K. Carrington, C. Perry, D. Blackwell, 74, R. Eadie, D. Leonardson — E. Ebleku, M. Gayle.

Referee: P. Dixon.



Collymore escapes the Wimbledon defence to get in a shot at Anfield, where his goal did not excuse him from criticism

Facing the footballer's nightmare

Injury is a player's greatest fear. During every game, every training session, players run the risk of picking up an injury that could end their careers, and yet there is absolutely nothing we can do to legislate against them.

It is the luck of the draw, because an injury can happen at any moment. I remember vividly the pictures of Steve Stone lying in a crumpled heap on the floor with a horrible injury that he picked up literally just running backwards for the ball.

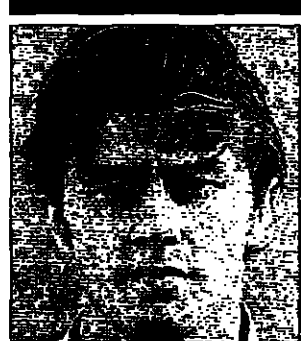
Of course, the best thing to do is not to dwell on it, because it would drive you mad. Think about it — one tackle and you're finished, just as the unfortunate David Buss found out. It can be an unkind profession.

If you didn't already realise, I have plenty of time to write this column this week because I am suffering from an injury. A hamstring problem, to be precise, and one that has given me quite a bit of bother. That is why I am going against my own advice and dwelling on injury.

It is frustrating, annoying, scary. You name it, I've felt it. I had played 106 consecutive games for Liverpool before I was forced to miss Saturday's match against Wimbledon. Instead, I watched from the stand, and what a bad feeling that was.

There is a myth that says a footballer wants his side to lose when he is injured. Wrong. He wants them to win 10-0 and play badly. It was so frustrating watching the game

STEVE McMANAMAN



feels the frustration of coping with injury

against Wimbledon, because the result did not go our way. I am not a great watcher anyway, and when we could not get that second goal to kill them off, it was really painful. When you are up there in the stand, there are things you can identify more easily than you can down on the pitch. All the urges are there — to shout, wave, whatever, just to help — but it doesn't matter because there is absolutely nothing you can do.

I said throughout the match that we needed a second goal to be safe. Against Wimbledon, they never make life comfortable. It is always a scrap and, while they are only a goal behind, then it is impossible to relax. We had the chances, we could have made the game safe, but

didn't — and paid the price. They never surrendered and got the goal I feared.

I was willing us to win, even though I wasn't playing, because we would have gone to the top of the Premiership and I think it is important to try to open up some sort of gap at this stage of the season. It is a miserable watching, not just because there is nothing you can do about the result. When you are injured, you are on the edge of things. Not an outcast, exactly, but definitely on the fringe.

Your life is treatment and rest, with hardly any contact with the team that you are normally so much a part of. The players are together in training, at the hotel, in the dressing-room, but the injured player is not involved. It is a lonely figure in some ways — especially sitting up there in the stand, with the supporters, watching events unfold.

It can get to you and it is then that you start worrying about the injury. Is it more serious than first thought? Is it something that could damage a career? My injury is a long-standing one. It is a hamstring problem. I have felt it ever before the European championship.

I have felt it all the time since then, just a dull pain that seemed to disappear after I had warmed up properly. It is the same problem that kept me out of the Moldova game for England, but I thought it had more or less cleared up. Then, against Everton, it came back quite badly.

I was forced to miss Saturday's game because I needed rest. I will rest until tomorrow and then test it again. I can feel it right now, but a couple more days' rest may ease the problem. Fingers crossed. I will be able to play against Arsenal on Wednesday.

I think the injury has persisted because fatigue has set in a little. I have played for two years without a break and have never had a chance to rest. Eventually, that sort of schedule is going to worsen the hamstring trouble.

On top of that, the cold weather does not help. It probably tightens the hamstring. It is a problem that is worrying, because it is always there. Even if I am passed fit tomorrow, then I know the problem will still be there. I will still have pain in the hamstring.

The only way to get rid of it completely is total rest, but that means at least a month's absence and I could do without that. I am hoping I will have recovered enough to be back playing again and then the correct warm-up and exercises will ensure that the injury does not worsen. That way, I might make it through until the end of the season.

Let's hope so, because I could not stand a long spell out of the side. The only injury I have had before was a dislocated knee, three times! Because I'm thin and because of my background in long-distance running, I have never had a muscle injury before this one. I pray this is the last.

Leicester dig in for long, hard winter

Leicester City 1
Everton 2

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

IT HAS taken Joe Royle two years to fashion an Everton team in his own image and, after a modest start to the season, they stand on the threshold of self-discovery. They won easily at Filbert Street, where, in Leicester City's last home game, Newcastle United had come a cropper, and are not far from having a side worthy of the club's tradition.

Certainly, the style is returning to their play. For too long their football has lacked charm, or any touch of distinction, but the way that they moved the ball here suggests that there is more to life than grinding out results. At times, in fact, they played one pass too many — as if that were the worst fault in the world. It is good to see the "old" Everton return in a new guise.

To that end, the recent signing of Nick Barmby from Middlesbrough has been a boon, and one feels that Middlesbrough will soon regret his departure. Barmby has settled down immediately, and was involved in most of the good things that Everton did in a bright first-half performance that brought them a bizarre goal, which they might easily have trebled.

Barmby's quick-thinking gave Hinchcliffe the chance to float the goal from 25 yards after Poole, mentally wandering, had picked up Parker's free kick inside the penalty area. Barmby took the indirect kick further out so the referee was technically at fault — but so what? Everton punished an indiscretion swiftly and effectively. Would that a few others got on with the job like that.

With Grant showing a liking for the ball in midfield, and Stuart popping up on the right, in place of the flustered Kanchelskis, Barmby ensured that Leicester saw little of the ball. Unsworth and Speed might have scored with headers, and Barmby shot across the face of the goal.

Unsworth's goal, prodded in from a yard out eight minutes into the second half, concluded the best passage of the match, and it had belonged entirely to Everton.

"We got a little bit tired after going two goals up," Royle said. "The fatigue got to the players after three games in eight days, the middle one being the derby. They became a big leggy, but I thought our first-half performance was excellent. Barmby has given us some goals around the box."

Leicester rallied in the last half-hour, as they had to, and managed a goal from Walsh six minutes from time when

Heskey broke down the left. They will not surrender their place in the FA Carling Premiership without a fight and, if they stay up, Martin O'Neill will merit a baronetcy. He will surely remain in the Premiership even if Leicester go down, for he is the most impressive manager and, granted larger resources, he should become even better.

For the time being, nobody should go near Filbert Street if they want to watch decent football. Though victories over Newcastle and Aston Villa showed Leicester how they can preserve their status, it will be a hard road to hoe this winter, even when Keller returns to guard their goal. He should be available for the Coca-Cola Cup tie against Manchester United on Wednesday night.

So far as the home supporters were concerned, the afternoon was a long, hard winter. They did not take kindly to Jeff Winter, the referee, or to his assistants, as we must now learn to call them. When Unsworth knocked out Mr



Barmby added guile

Sims in the second half, obliging the stretcher-bearers to carry the linesman down the tunnel, they voiced their displeasure long and loud.

At first it appeared to be a bit of fun, but, as it became clear that Sims was indeed struggling, their behaviour became gratuitous. He left the field to abuse and obscene gestures as, once again, a football crowd revealed its true nature. On this occasion, it was Leicester; it could have been anywhere.

We are not supposed to mention such things and nobody within the game, managers or chairmen, least of all the lickspittles of television, will ever confront these problems of behaviour. When John Arlott gave up reporting football 25 years ago, he said that the game had become "sleazy". Has anything changed?

LEICESTER CITY (4-2-2) K. Poole, S. Grayson, J. Walsh, 63, S. Taylor, 63min, S. Prior, S. Walsh, M. Whelan, G. Parker (sub), Marshall, 63, N. Lennon, M. Izuel, S. Clendage, S. Heskey.

EVERTON (4-4-2) N. Southall, E. Barmby, D. Watson, D. Lindeboom, A. Hinchcliffe, C. Grant, T. Grant (sub), C. Sheen, 86, J. Parkinson, G. Speed, N. Barmby, D. Ferguson.

Referee: J. Winter.

Fateful slip leaves Souness seething

Southampton 0
Leeds United 2

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

WITH eight minutes to go, this match was drifting towards the goalless draw that many people had been predicting; after all, Southampton needed to steady themselves after humiliation at Everton, and Leeds United would surely be satisfied with a first away point under the management of George Graham.

Then, for a few fateful seconds, confusion reigned among Southampton's defenders as Brian Deane's cross came in from the left, and Gary Kelly found himself all alone, with the ball dropping invitingly in front of him, begging to be volleyed past Chris Woods. Kelly duly obliged — his first league goal.

Graeme Souness, the Southampton manager, was furious. "You don't concede goals like that," he said. "I asked for a reaction after last week's result. I didn't feel we gave the fans the reaction we expected. I didn't enjoy today."

On reflection, he might think that it was not quite that bad. Neither team looked as tentative as might have been expected under the circumstances and Eyal Berkovic, for one, did his best to live up to his billing. He hardly ever passed anywhere but forward, mainly on the ground, searching for spaces behind defenders with precise through-balls, and Ostenstad was a particular beneficiary.

Yet Woods was the busier of the two goalkeepers, thanks to Leeds's defenders, who worked hard to make sure that those Berkovic passes seldom found an unmarked man.

Graham singled out Lucas Radebe and made honourable mention of the tireless Deane, from whose pass Lee Sharpe sealed the win in the final minute, burying a low left-footer past Woods.

However, while praising his team's spirit, Graham was realistic. "I don't want to put a dampener on the boys who worked hard today," he said, "but we're in the wrong half. There's a lot of work to be done. I've got to bring new blood in, which is very difficult; there is not the quality, or quantity, of players around."

You ask, though, speaking of quality, what of Matthew Le Tissier and Ian Rush, two of the most prodigiously talented goalscorers? You do not want to know. Le Tissier's best moment of the afternoon was a dipping volley from the edge of the box, aimed just under

the crossbar; a pity it was only in the pre-game warm-up. When things began in earnest, he had first Radebe and then a thigh injury to contend with, and limped off in the 32nd minute. He may be sidelined for a month.

Rush, although playing up front again, still has not scored for Leeds, and is not likely to if a glaring miss in the seventh minute, is anything to go by. Graham, though, was not over-concerned. "Rushie is experienced enough to know that the win today is more important than him scoring a goal," he said.

SOUTHAMPTON (3-4-1-2) G. Woods, U. van Gobbel, C. Lundekvam, R. Dwyer, D. Dool, J. Maynard, M. O'Leary (sub), R. Sharpe, 72min, G. Parker — E. Berkovic — M. Le Tissier (sub), A. Deane, 32, sub: K. Monk, 86, E. Carmichael.

Referee: K. Burge.

Sunderland reveal survival instinct

Sunderland 1
Sheffield Wednesday 1

By MARK HODKINSON

THE wife of a certain Brazilian footballer with connections to the North East would not have approved. Snow was piled against the perimeter fence, a chilling wind blew and Sunderland, unlike Middlesbrough, are not even listed in *Elle* magazines' "British hip 100".

If Middlesbrough gives Mrs Emerson a headache, who could assess the blow of a trip to Roker Park, where supporters see their breath turn to ice and expectations to dust.

Sunderland have scored just ten goals in 14 matches in the FA Carling Premiership and, more to the point, are offering football to complement the bleakness of their environs.

Survival in the top flight is imperative to galvanise the move to a new 41,600 capacity ground on the River Wear in the summer.

Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, would seem an ideal man for survival. Robust and short, he looks like he would take some knocking down and he likes his teams to have the same quality. He has an answer for everything and it usually amounts to a deadpan, "I pick the team," which means nothing and everything at the same time.

Sheffield Wednesday, though, have already shown themselves occasionally to be shy of a scrap, but they refused to wilt under the clutter of studs and shin pads. They defended gallantly in the first half when Kelly had a shot deflected onto the underside of the bar and Bridges hit the foot of a post.

On a rare Sheffield move upfield, Carbone found Oakes and he sent himself well before drilling the ball past Perez. The lead was held for two minutes. A typically erratic Sunderland move saw the ball bouncing across the face of the Wednesday goal. Melville met it at the far post and sent it into the net.

After the equaliser, Reid mysteriously withdrew Bridges, one of only three players on the pitch willing to trust invention and subtlety above exertion, his peers being Carbone and Booth, of Sheffield.

The managers had contrary views on the game. "It was a good game," Reid said. "I was delighted with the players' attitude."

David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, was far more liberal with the truth. "It was a cold game, a grey game, much like

the day," he said. "We never got any rhythm or pattern. The wind was awful." Some choice words there — principally cold, grey and awful.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2) J. Perez, G. Hall, A. Melville, M. Scott, D. Ruddy, C. O'Kelly, P. Brownwell, N. Ball (sub), A. Rae, 45min, M. Smith — M. Bridges (sub), C. Russell, 72, P. Stewart.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2) K. Pressman, P. Atkinson, J. Newsome, D. Walker, J. Nolan, G. Hyde, D. Trustall (sub), G. Whitham, 84, M. Pennington, S. Oakes (sub), R. Humphreys, 84, B. Carbone, A. Booth.

Referee: G. Barber.

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Simon Wilde calls for positive leadership as tour party leaves for Zimbabwe and New Zealand

Atherton must give England right directions

It is a reflection of the changes in status of the world's cricketing nations that England embark this evening on a full tour of two countries that were once no more than ports of call on far greater missions. They still expect to win, but their record overseas in recent years is so poor that it would be rash to discount failure.

England will fulfil five international fixtures in Zimbabwe — which, as Rhodesia, simply formed one of nine provincial opponents when they last played there during a tour of South Africa in 1964-65 — and eight in New Zealand, which for generations provided them with the opportunity to gild their averages on the way home from a hard-fought series in Australia.

Hospitality was then a key element to both visits, as it will be now, but the tour manage-

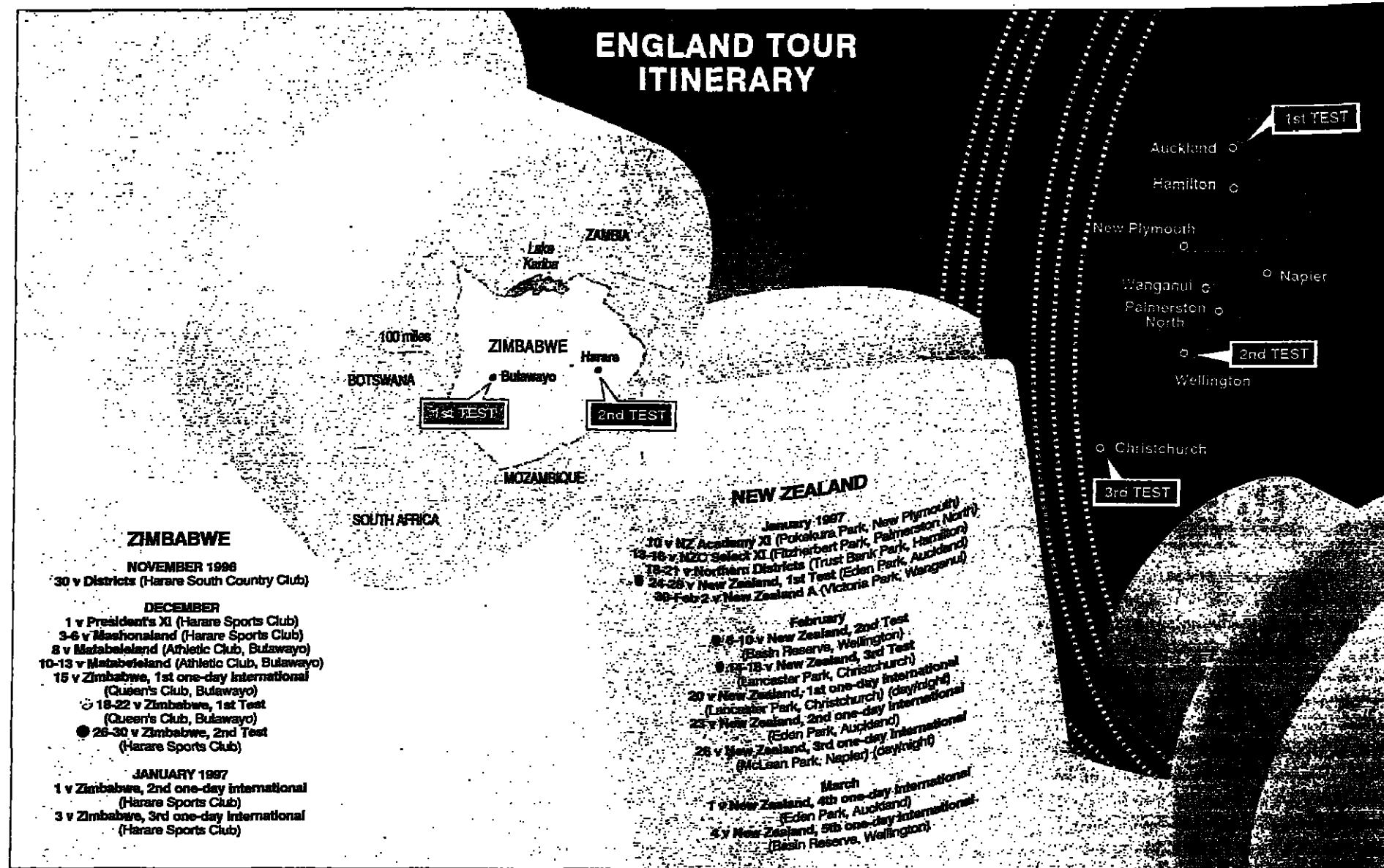
SQUAD

M. A. Atherton (Lancashire, captain), N. Haseeb (Essex, vice-captain), A. J. Stewart (Surrey), G. P. Thompson (Surrey), J. P. Crawley (Lancashire), N. V. Knight (Worcestershire), R. G. Jones (Essex), R. G. Russell (Gloucestershire), R. D. B. Croft (Gloucestershire), D. Gough (Nottinghamshire), A. R. Caddick (Surrey), D. E. W. Silverwood (Yorkshire), P. C. R. Tufnell (Middlesex), A. D. Mullally (Leicestershire), D. G. Cook (Durham) will join the squad in New Zealand. Tour manager: J. R. T. Barclay. Coach: D. Lloyd. Physiotherapist: W. P. Morton. Scorer: M. N. Ashby.

ment is already warning of the dangers of its players becoming too cosy with the opposition, and Michael Atherton, the captain, and David Lloyd, the coach, are right to be cautious.

The Test pitches in each country can be frustrating for bowlers, which may be enough to satisfy Zimbabwe's hopes of avoiding defeat, while New Zealand are rebuilding their side with success and defeated Pakistan, who made light of winning a Test series in England last summer, in Lahore yesterday.

Yet even if England beat them both, it is conceivable that they will do so and be little the wiser about which players can best help them regain the Ashes next summer, or how they should go about it. Atherton and Lloyd have stated their belief that the bulk of the



Atherton: captaincy test



Tufnell: temperament test

side now picks itself, but there are a number of issues that may remain unresolved three months from now.

One concerns the batting. Unless Stewart is to be asked to keep wicket ahead of Russell, the specialist, there will probably be room for only five batsmen in the Tests. So who, of the chosen six, will miss out? Stewart, whose career looked beyond salvation six months ago, is now firmly re-established, which leaves Knight and Crawley, both of whom took centuries off Pakistan,

looking vulnerable. It is possible that these two players, each of whom appears capable of serving England well for years to come, will return home with their short-term careers in doubt, especially as Hick, who is spending the winter recharging his batteries at home, cannot be ruled out of the calculations for next summer.

Another concern — the main one — surrounds the bowling. Here, little is settled. Last summer, only Cork and Mullally played in all six Test

matches, against India and Pakistan, and their supporting cast numbered nine in all. Several of those nine did not gain selection for either this tour or the A team in Australia, and three faces new to the England Test side since Lloyd's regime began last May — Gough, Silverwood and Tufnell — may now do important work this winter, especially after Cork's late withdrawal from the Zimbabwe leg.

Cork's absence, caused by unhappy domestic circumstances, may have one positive

aspect, because it will place the remaining seam bowlers firmly under the spotlight, and their responses will be instructive. If it means that Silverwood, the only uncapped member of the party and the only real gamble, acquires the chance to show that he can fill the shoes of Fraser, as many believe him capable of doing, then all to the good.

Much will also depend on how Tufnell and Croft, the spinners, perform. If England are to win Test matches, this

pair are likely to have a key part to play. Neither of them should expect any great favours from the pitches, though, which will probably turn only slowly. There may be frustrations if things do not go according to plan, which would be a good test of Tufnell's new-found maturity.

The key to success, though, may lie with Atherton himself. Refreshed after a two-month lay-off, and as determined as ever to carry out his duties, he is now in a more influential position than at any time since

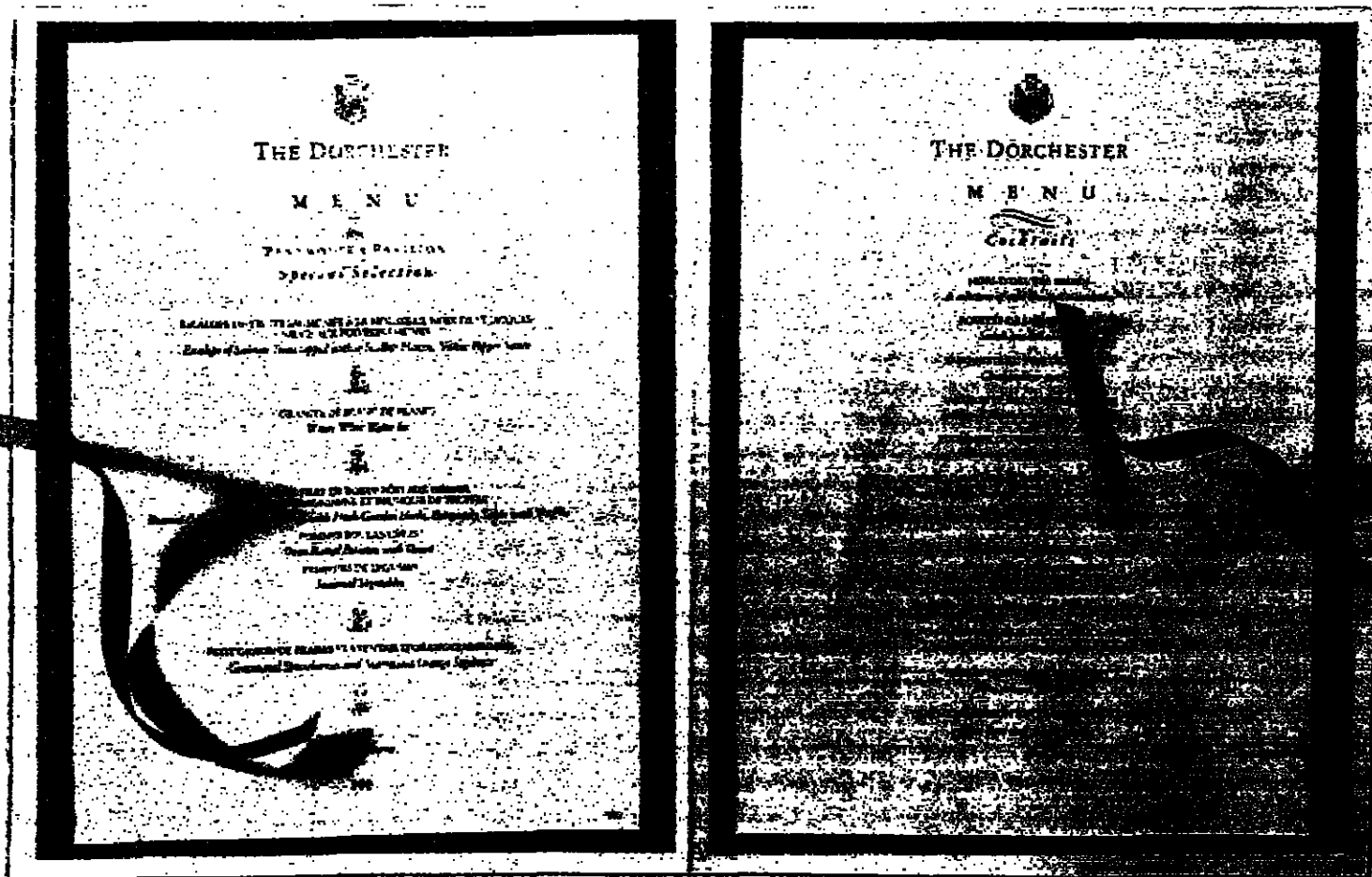
becoming England captain in August 1993. With Raymond Illingworth having departed the scene, his last act having been to supervise the selection of this tour party, Atherton is temporarily left without a chairman of selectors and surrounded by a management team made up of people whom he trusts and likes.

From this comfortable position off the field, Atherton must now make sure that he does not miss a trick on it. He admits that he finds captaincy as much subject to fluctuations

in form as batting and may need to be in sure touch if a win is not to dissipate into a draw, and nothing less than his best will be enough, surely, when it comes to Australia.

Having so far led three losing England teams abroad, in difficult series against West Indies, Australia and South Africa, plus an embarrassingly subdued World Cup campaign on the sub-continent earlier this year, he certainly does not seem to be contemplating any half-measures this time — and nor should he.

It's just words on a page,
until you taste it.



Taylor spares West Indies follow-on

1994		1993		1992		1991		1990		1989		1988		1987		1986		1985		1984		1983		1982		1981		1980		1979		1978		1977		1976		1975		1974		1973		1972		1971		1970		1969		1968		1967		1966		1965		1964		1963		1962		1961		1960		1959		1958		1957		1956		1955		1954		1953		1952		1951		1950		1949		1948		1947		1946		1945		1944		1943		1942		1941		1940		1939		1938		1937		1936		1935		1934		1933		1932		1931		1930		1929		1928		1927		1926		1925		1924		1923		1922		1921		1920		1919		1918		1917		1916		1915		1914		1913		1912		1911		1910		1909		1908		1907		1906		1905		1904		1903		1902		1901		1900		1899		1898		1897		1896		1895		1894		1893		1892		1891		1890		1889		1888		1887		1886		1885		1884		1883		1882		1881		1880		1879		1878		1877		1876		1875		1874		1873		1872		1871		1870		1869		1868		1867		1866		1865		1864		1863		1862		1861		1860		1859		1858		1857		1856		1855		1854		1853		1852		1851		1850		1849		1848		1847		1846		1845		1844		1843		1842		1841		1840		1839		1838		1837		1836		1835		1834		1833		1832		1831		1830		1829		1828		1827		1826		1825		1824		1823		1822		1821		1820		1819		1818		1817		1816		1815		1814		1813		1812		1811		1810		1809		1808		1807		1806		1805		1804		1803		1802		1801		1800		1799		1798		1797		1796		1795		1794		1793		1792		1791		1790		1789		1788		1787		1786		1785		1784		1783		1782		1781		1780		1779		1778		1777		1776		1775		1774		1773		1772		1771		1770		1769		1768		1767		1766		1765		1764		1763		1762		1761		1760		1759		1758		1757		1756		1755		1754		1753		1752		1751		1750		1749		1748		1747		1746		1745		1744		1743		1742		1741		1740		1739		1738		1737		1736		1735		1734		1733		1732		1731		1730		1729		1728		1727		1726		1725		1724		1723		1722		1721		1720		1719		1718		1717		1716		1715		1714		1713		1712		1711		1710		1709		1708		1707		1706		1705		1704		1703		1702		1701		1700		1699		1698		1697		1696		1695		1694		1693		1692		1691		1690		1689		1688		1687		1686		1685		1684		1683		1682		1681	
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صباح الخير

RUGBY UNION: INEXPERIENCED SIDE PREPARES FOR STERNER TEST AFTER OVERWHELMING ITALY

England set out on a Shaw footing

England 54
Italy 21

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

"NEXT week" kept getting in the way of England's enjoyment of their opening international of the season at Twickenham on Saturday. Players and management quite rightly made the meeting with the New Zealand Barbarians next Saturday their reference, after which we will know more about "new" England than 80 frost-bound minutes have so far demonstrated.

If that seems unduly dismissive of Italy, that is because they were part of the game for little more than the second half of this Save and Prosper international. Their play was a substantial blow to their aspirations to be part of an enlarged European championship and brought forth hard-hitting criticism by Massimo Giovanelli, their captain, of the quality of the structure of their domestic rugby — how familiar a sound to English ears.

England will announce tomorrow their team to play the New Zealanders and, injuries apart, it will surely be the same. Jason Leonard, who led out the team for his fiftieth international, did not finish the match and required an X-ray on a damaged elbow, but this XV needs to be put through the ringer to see what depth it has. To take only one phase: if Johnson, Shaw and Rodger can dominate the lineout (which they won 17-5 against Italy) against Robin Brooke and Ian Jones, then they can celebrate.

Not yet, though. To score 50 points in an international is encouraging, but as Phil de Glanville, the captain, observed: "It was a good start, but that's all it was, a start."

Indeed, there were times after the interval, as Italy started to peg back a 35-point deficit, that they looked by far the more natural footballers, keeping their shape behind the forwards better and creating space for the talented Vaccari and Pertile.

England, however, should not be damned with faint praise. They are in a period of huge transition, of personnel and philosophy, and they had all but won the game by half-time against opponents who created awkward problems for Wales and Australia last month. Their newcomers had plenty to enjoy — Gomersall's two tries, Sheehy's joyous look from the bottom of the pile as he crossed for the seventh and last, Adeboye's powerful breaks into midfield



Carling evades the tackle of Dominguez, left, and tries to put Cuttitta out of reach during the defeat of Italy. Photograph: Marc Aspland

— but the most interesting prospect is Simon Shaw.

There are nearly 20 stone to Shaw and England have been waiting to use them since he stepped forth as a late replacement on tour against South Africa in Kimberley two years ago. Injuries have held up the process, but here, with the help of Regan, his Bristol colleague, he dominated the middle of the lineout and rumbled around the pitch in a manner so menacing as to put one in mind of a runaway dumper truck.

"You have to have world class set-pieces to go anywhere, but what England have, which are as good as anyone's, are running forwards," Jack Rowell, the coach, said. "If we can get that going, it will give us a bit of an edge when we play the big teams."

To see Shaw, Johnson and Rowntree playing with such effect in the loose was to know that they were comfortable in their primary areas and the disappointment of Saturday was that more could not be built off that platform.

The interactive rugby that Rowell seeks should come from forward support of the midfield, and against Italy that seldom bore fruit; thus, opportunities for the wings were few and Stimpson's pace and strength from full back were rarely seen. That should not be so much of a surprise since England spent an entire season failing to use Catt as a strike weapon a year ago but, specifically, it is what Stimpson has been introduced for.

Yet credit must go to Italy's defensive organisation in that they forced England to batter over from close range for three tries, while Gomersall's pair came from a twist and a dummy from rocks close to the line. The whole was embellished by Catt's goal-kicking, which included a couple of awkwardly-angled attempts as well as some straightforward efforts, one of which ended in that rarely seen accomplishment, a charged-down conversion.

Yet kicking is never straightforward in front of 45,000 people, a crowd that also served to freeze Italian

ambitions. "Rugby is perhaps the sixth or eighth sport in Italy and sometimes clubs play in front of no more than 150 people," Giovanelli said. "There are only two clubs strong enough, Treviso and Milan, and after them there is nothing. We have not yet acquired the approach to play at the top level."

Full guide to the weekend results... Page 40

To generate more interest, Italy need to be part of a European championship, but to break into the northern hemisphere's inner sanctum, they need to achieve significant results and Saturday was a setback. Their players are on annual retainers, but their preparation time is limited compared with England's. Yet Giovanelli believes that his team is as competitive as Ireland, Scotland or Wales and this season, he will have the chance to show as much since Italy play games against each of the five nations.

Over a 23-minute spell in the second half, they scored three tries through a mixture of bravado and application. Troncon and Dominguez played to great effect at half back as England were embraced by a torpor that they cannot afford on Saturday. The defensive wall was not solid enough to keep out Troncon and Arancio, while Vaccari's sumptuous try included a double swerve past Stimpson and Gomersall.

To England's and de Glanville's credit, they summoned up the blood once more to score two late tries and introduced further new caps in Hardwick and Greening. For Hardwick, the Coventry prop, it must have been a special moment. If ever there was a deserved loyalty bonus, this was it.

SCORERS: England: Tries: Gomersall (2), Sheehy, Johnson, Rowntree, Sheehy, Conversions: Catt (5) Penalty goals: Catt (5) Italy: Tries: Vaccari, Troncon, Arancio, Conversions: Dominguez (5)

ENGLAND: T R G Stimpson (Newcastle), J M Sheehy (Bath), W D C Carling (Harlequins), P R de Glanville (Bath), A A Adeboye (Bath), M J Catt (Bath), A C T Gomersall (Worcester), G C Rowntree (Leicester), M P Regan (Bristol), J Leonard (Harlequins), T A K Rodger (Northampton and Kent), M D Johnson (Leicester), S D Shaw (Bristol), L B N Dallaglio (Worcester), C M A Sheehy (Worcester), Leonard replaced by R J K Hardwick (Coventry, 71min); Regan replaced by P B T Greening (Gloucester, 77); Gomersall replaced by K P P Bracken (Saracens, 80).

ITALY: J Parile (Forlì), P Vaccari (Cavallotti), S Bordon (Rovigo), I Francescato (Treviso), L Mantovani (Treviso), D Dominguez (Milan), A Troncon (Treviso), M Cuttitta (Milan), C Orlandi (Milan), P Prosperi (Carrara), M Giovanelli (PUC, captain), W Christoforoletti (Treviso), C Checchinato (Treviso), C Govi (Fiesole), O Arancio (Milan), Govi replaced by A Scotton (Treviso, 58min); Checchinato replaced by A Scotton (Treviso, 80), G Guidi (Livorno) temporary replacement for Troncon (33-36, 63-66).

Referee: P Deluca (Argentina).

Australia take pounding but refuse to buckle

Ireland 12
Australia 22

FROM CHRIS IRVINE
IN DUBLIN

THE stands at Lansdowne Road thrummed briefly in anticipation on Saturday before Celtic fires were doused and a familiar mood returned. Ireland are making progress, but nothing less than victory will suffice when Italy visit on January 4.

Against Australia, Ireland reached for victory but shied away from it, as if spooked by the prospect. The Irish Rugby Football Union should be on the phone first thing this morning to the sports psychology unit that advertised free advice in the match programme.

Losing certainly hurt, especially after the pain inflicted by Western Samoa 12 days before. Ireland excoriated that dark moment, but, in the professional era, there is not much of a place for even the grandest of failures, as Murray Kidd, the Ireland coach, will be the first to admit.

Australia were ripe for the taking. It is not a bad team that continues to beat all-comers, but even more than against Scotland two weeks before, they were unwieldy and impotent in much of their attacking.

A place-kicking battle between the Burkes — Matthew, of Australia, and Paul, of Ireland — was interrupted decisively in the 78th minute, when the Ireland guard dropped momentarily and Knox skated through to touch down between the posts.

For this game, Ireland reacquainted themselves with the basic tenets of their tradition, but, in the modern age, passion and destructiveness can take a team only so far. Until they can run the ball with confidence, Ireland can expect some further disappointments.

Australia are now without the inspirational John Eales for the remainder of the tour — Tim Horan has assumed the captaincy — and that must give Wales heart for next Sunday.

McCall's challenge, which left Eales with a fractured eye-socket, proved more effective

than those directed at Keith Wood, the Ireland captain. Twice, Wood was put down; twice, he got up for more. By hanging off the rucks and giving Burke options, Wood was Ireland's most penetrating attacker.

Greg Smith, the Australia coach, was unmoved by criticism of his team's pragmatism. "All wins are great wins when you beat a national side," he said. "It's been a long season for us and the fact is the only side we haven't beaten is the best in the world [New Zealand], and we came pretty close against them, too."

Must we wait, therefore, until the Barbarians provide the opposition at Twickenham, on December 7, to see Horan, Little, Herbert and Roff given freedom to run? Until Irish spirit drained away in the last 15 minutes on Saturday, Australia were rattled, especially by the irrepressible driving of Corkery and Foley, while McIvor had a lively debut at scrum half. Australia's tackling, though, was never less than precise and, for all the attempts that Ireland made to cross the line in the first half, a try never looked like coming. Ireland lacked variation. The bludgeoning, predictably, ended in exhaustion and frustration.

Having done most to absorb the pressure, Manu and Brial, in the back row, led the Australian drive for victory. Burke's fifth penalty goal recaptured the lead that Ireland had held twice before. Topping was dispossessed. Grogan broke off the subsequent ruck, evaded Corkery's outstretched arm and linked with the unstoppable Knox.

SCORERS: Ireland: Penalty goals: Burke (4) Australia: Try: Knox. Conversions: Burke. Penalty goals: Burke (5)

IRELAND: J E Staples (Harlequins), J A Topping (Bathurst), J C Bell (Northampton), M C McCall (Dungannon), D J Grogan (Garryowen), P A Burke (Garryowen), S A McIvor (Garryowen), N J Poppo (Newcastle), K G M Wood (Harlequins, captain), P S Wallace (Saracens), D S Corkery (Bristol), G M Fulkner (London Irish), J W Davidson (London Irish), W D McIlrath (London Irish), A G Foley (Gloucester), replaced by M J Field (London Irish).

AUSTRALIA: M P Burke (New South Wales), J S Little (Queensland), D J Herbert (Queensland), T J Horan (Queensland), J W Roff (Australian Capital Territory), D J Knox (NSW), G M Grogan (ACT), D J Crowley (Queensland), M A Foley (Queensland), A T Bialas (NSW), D T Manu (ACT), W W Waugh (NSW), J A Eales (Queensland, captain), D J Wilson (Queensland), M C Brial (NSW), Eales replaced by B J Robinson (ACT, 64min). Referee: S Campbell (England).

Captain confirms officer class with display of cool diplomacy

Andrew Longmore sees Phil de Glanville make a quietly confident start to a new era

On the face of it, this was an easy victory for England and an ABC introduction to the art of leadership for Phil de Glanville, the new captain. Five new caps and eight months of domestic strife were enough to ensure full commitment from the new-look England, despite opponents who arrived in town late and did not effect a meeting of body and mind until the game was all but over. The visit of a near full-strength All Blacks side, masquerading as the New Zealand Barbarians, this Saturday will test the N to Z of de Glanville's captaincy skills. Best to leave his verbal pyrotechnics for that one.

Yet, for all the swaths of bare seats — a rare sight at Twickenham these days — and the low-key atmosphere, this was a critical test, for rugby as much as England. Whole rivers of toxic waste have flowed under the bridge since their last international, when a man called Carling was captain and an era closed.

Saturday was a chance to see how much purity of rugby spirit had survived the stench, to test old loyalties and dust down ancient rituals. The first chorus of "Swing low sweet chariot" came a minute into the game, accompanied by an audible clearing of throats and a distribution of song sheets. Remember the words? It was nice, though, to get back to some rugby, however one-sided. The arrival of Rob Hardwick, of Coventry, in the second half was the only tangible reminder of the recent bickering. Hardwick was the one member of the squad to turn up for the first training session of the season at Bisham Abbey. The rest had bunked off to a London hotel to discuss how much money they should be making and whether they should play for their country at all. The wrangling between the clubs and the Rugby Football Union (RFU) continues, but the

union has cannily organised a phalanx of fixtures over the next month, which should deflect the minds of the players and concentrate those of the officials.

In the midst of the posturing, de Glanville has cut a wholesome figure. His is the acceptable face of discord. Bryanston, Durham and Oxford, "Hollywood" to his friends. Enough of a chap to satisfy the old guard, enough of a modernist to placate the new professionals. He learnt about his appointment on the golf course and reacted coolly enough to the news to chip and hole his putt for par after the call. He is, in other words, good officer material and his emphasis on the importance

of keeping calm during rare moments of pressure from Italy gave an early indication of his unflinching style.

Not that he seemed abashed by his new status, once even gaudier than a gathering of his forwards to make his point, another time admonishing Regan for an indiscretion by pointing at his temple. Think about it, boy, think Carling, on the whole, let Brian Moore talk dirty to his pack and limited his encouragement to a slap on the backside or a quiet word in the ear.

"Phil will let you know what he wants, for sure," Martin Johnson said. "In a sense, he has a harder job than Will did at the start

because there are a lot of new guys in the team. When Will came in, he had a lot of experience to call on." It was still strange, Johnson admitted, to find Carling "sitting at the back with the lads".

The presence of the most successful England captain alongside him was, in one sense, a measure of de Glanville's confidence, just as the decision to let Leonard lead out the side on his fiftieth cap spoke volumes for his diplomacy. Many would have been unnerved by the proximity of triumph past. De Glanville said that he found it reassuring. Carling resisted any temptation to interfere, channeling his energies into some devastating tackles in midfield.

The one doubt hovers not over de Glanville's ability to lead the side effectively, but over his ability to score tries. Twice, he was held up tantalisingly close to the Italy line, finding neither the strength nor the pace to make the final few strides.

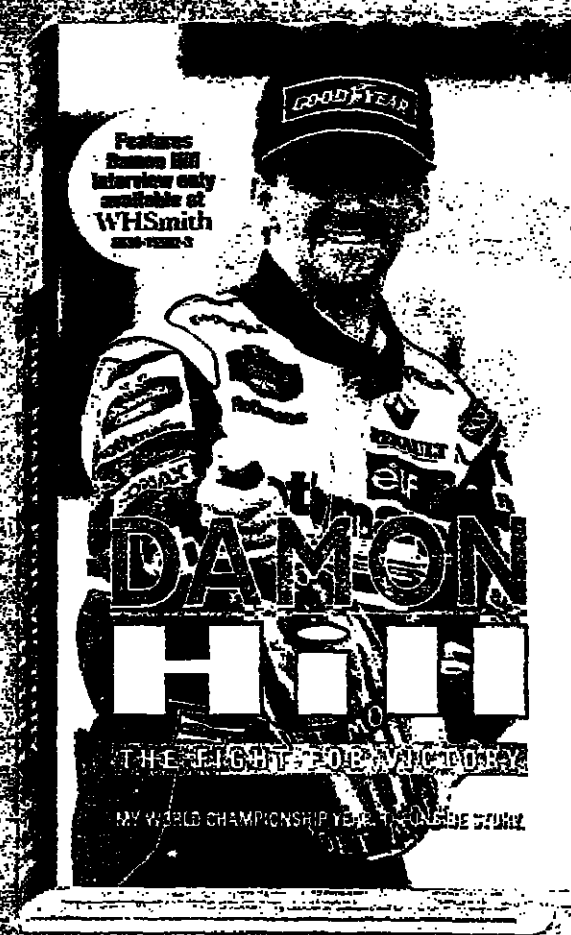
Guscott's shadowy running might be desperately needed early in the new year if England do not find a touch more invention behind an immaculate pack. Italy were well beaten by half-time, which should have been the cue for the backs to cut loose. Nothing happened.

England relied for momentum on the back row and the thrusting runs of Gomersall, who capped an impressive debut with two tries and was roundly abused by some of his colleagues for his selfishness in trying to score a third. De Glanville will doubtless put him right this week. "A good start, that's all it was, but the overall tempo of our game and the way we kept our heads was very encouraging," he said. It might have been Carling speaking, so seamless has been the transition from



Sheehy is commiserated by de Glanville after conversion

On the WHSmith video, Damon Hill takes an extra 14 minutes to finish.



WHatever they're into, get into WHSmith

ICE HOCKEY

ICE HOCKEY

[illegible]

Montreal	9	11	3
Boston	7	9	4
Ottawa	6	8	6

Pittsburgh	7	13	1
Northeast div			

RUGBY LEAGUE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Beverley 28 Oldham 5

Chicago	11	10	0
St. Louis	12	11	0
Toronto	9	13	0
7	2	11	

Phoenix	6	11	4
	Pacific division		
Colorado	15	5	4

Hamilton (Eng) 9-1, K. Doherty (Ire) 6-3
Davis (Eng) 9-5, A. Robidoux (Can) 10-6
with K. Broughton (Eng) 4-1, J. Parrott (Eng)
level with J. Johnson (Eng) 4-4

J Dungen (US) 3.5 (original dance): 1, A 1

Orszennikov (Russ) 1 Opt
and V Kratz (Can) 2.4: 3, 5
Lavanchy (Fr) 2.6

WREXHAM: LTA Reebok tour: Finals: Men: D Sapford (Surrey) bt P Hand (Berkshire) 6-2, 6-4 Women: L Ahl (Devon) bt C Taylor (Oxfordshire) 4-0 rei

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ETHICS

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POSTPONED: Constance
head/longhair

matchups: Coventry 17 Bath 45; Arsenal 2

CHAMPIONSHIP: Saturday.
Shure 20 Warwickshire 27
Yesterday: Devon 8 East M

Exeter). Hertfordshire 3 Ch
Hertford). Kent 18 Yorkshire
Farnham

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Edinburgh Ac	7	6	0	1	198	100	12
Dundee H&FP	8	5	1	2	217	144	14
Glasgow Ac	8	5	0	3	200	181	10

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POSTPONED: Gorsegrange v Hills Head, Gorsegrange v Gorsegrange, Langthorne v Haddington.

Anglo-Welsh Cup

Pool 2A

Durwest 21 West Hartlepool 28

Durwest: Ties: Jenkins, King, Cox; M. Thomas, Peters, M. Thomas, C. West. **Hartlepool:** Ties: S. John, T. Shaw, Cox. John, Stabler, Peters, C. John, Stabler, 2.

CLUB MATCHES: Barking 85 Thurrock 6; Barkingham 30 Solihull 24; Rugby 82 London Road 40; Blackheath 9; Dulwich 40; Dulwich University 8; Plymouth 20; East Thurston 14; Richmond 50; Telford 21; Walsley 22; Gloucester 24; London Welsh 35; Newport 38; Clifton 24; Cardiff 12; Newport 24; Worcester 38; Carmarthen 10; Newcastle v Sale, Orrell v Nottingham; Swale v Dulwich City; Sale v Brough Park.

SUN ALLIANCE CENTS COUNTRY

match: Coventry 17 Bath 45; Askeans 3 Old Colliery 28; Bedford 3 Northampton 11; Leicester 84 Loughborough Students 6. **Positioned:** Bury Hal v Soud, Usher under-21 v New Zealand News.

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Easter, Northshore 3 Cheshire 25 (at
Hertford), Kent 18 Yorkshire 6 (at Midland
Bank).

WORLD CUP QUALIFIER: European
zone; Round A: Pool one: Israel 15 Aus-
trales 3.

TOUR MATCH: French Barbarians 30
South Africa XV 22 (in Brins)

DUBAI Emirates Sevens Trophy Quarter-
finals: Fiji 47 Morocco 5, South Africa 21,
United States 12, Wales 42, Scotland 21.
Semi-finals: Japan 29 Zimbabwe 19, Samoa 19vs Fiji 26
Tonga 5, South Africa 34, Wales 14, Final:
Fiji 43 South Africa 12.

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Club

FOOTBALL

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صلى الله عليه وسلم

Sally Jones explains the technique of snowboarding — and the art of falling without hurting your wrists

Face uphill and zig-zag downwards

My first taste of snowboarding was four years ago, and not auspicious. It was an outing, when I was five months pregnant, with a surly Swiss instructor in driving sleet on the icy lower slopes of the ski resort of Lenzerheide, in Switzerland.

After the barest handful of tips on technique, I and my fellow beginners were launched down a rutted piste devoid of even a sprinkling of powder snow to cushion our frequent falls. As we sledged and zig-zagged uncontrollably, both feet tethered to a broad unwieldy plank, our only means of slowing this terrifying progress seemed to be to throw ourselves flat on the ice, often bruising our knees and, in one case, sustaining a broken wrist.

Holisting myself upright on a board that constantly shot

SPORT FOR ALL

from underneath me proved impossible. So, after an hour of wriggling like a beetle on its back after each fall, I was forced to undo my foot bindings, stand up and laboriously refasten the bindings before spurring off once more on the way to the inevitable cataclysmic purler. I became completely exhausted and close to tears of frustration.

When another woman in the group asked how the baby was reacting to the rough ride, our instructor, who had not spotted the bulge beneath my ski-suit, exploded with fury and ordered me back to the hotel, cursing the irresponsibility of those who dared to attempt a sport like snowboarding when pregnant.

On reflection, I saw his point, but, at the time, my overwhelming emotion was not so much concern for the baby's safety as sheer relief to be taking an early bath after such a miserable experience.

When the Prince of Wales recently underwent a similar humiliation, tumbling repeatedly under the merciless lenses of the world's press, while his hip, relaxed sons plunged and veered faultlessly about the piste within minutes of their first attempts, my heart went out to him.

It was with considerable trepidation, therefore, that I agreed to take Victoria Smith, my athletic 16-year-old cousin, for her first taste of snowboarding at the Tamworth Snowdome, in Staffordshire, the only indoor "real snow" ski slope in Europe. Snowboarding originated in the United States in about 1929, but caught on seriously in the late 1960s as part of a growing vogue for "extreme" sports.

It hit Great Britain in the late 1980s when around 100 "board crazies" got the bug, mostly learning the basics on dry ski slopes and then saving up for trips to the Alps to experiment on real snow.

In the hire shop at the



Trees of ski: Sally Jones and her cousin Victoria Smith, choose snowboards from among the equipment on hire at Tamworth Snowdome before going off to join the other "board crazies" on the piste



"Goofies" place their right foot forward on the board

Snowdome, Marc Chester, 26, our instructor a slalom specialist ranked in the top 15 of British snowboarders, helped us to choose our yeti-style boots and five foot-long boards, to which the feet are strapped diagonally about 18 inches apart.

He said that the sport was expanding rapidly. "It's really taking off and in the past year it's gone berserk because abso-

lutely everyone wants to try it," he said. "At this centre, we've got 20 specialists and it is estimated that, by 2000, one in three British adults will be snowboarders."

I was, he informed me, "goofy" because I opted for bindings with right foot leading, while Victoria, with a leading left foot, was "regular". He first showed us how to scoot around with only the

front foot fastened to the board, then we carried our boards up the side of the 150-metre slope. At the top of a gentle, stepped incline, we learnt how to place the board parallel to the fall line and fasten our bindings, facing uphill, a useful precaution in my case because the familiar panic was setting in.

Making it look absurdly easy, Chester showed us "toe edge" (the edge of the board towards which the toes point) and "heel edge", then demonstrated how, facing uphill, he kept his weight on his toes, heels slightly lifted, knees flexed, hips pressing forward, then gradually rotated his head and shoulders in the direction of his leading foot so that the board slid gently across the piste.

On the far side, he smoothly centred his weight, once more facing uphill to slow the board, then gently rotated his torso towards the opposite side of the piste, weight onto his back foot, and skimmed across. The apparent simplicity of the manoeuvre was deceptive and, when Chester held my hands, talking me through my first attempt, all went well until towards the end I committed the cardinal sin of tensing up and sitting back on my heels, bottom out.

Within seconds of starting my first unaccompanied run, however, the board was facing downhill and spurring forward out of control until I

managed to sit down, taking care not to break my fall with my hands, the main source of broken wrists. It was only after half a dozen attempts that I finally began to feel that I could control the board, rather than bailing out when it bolted.

Victoria, with fewer inhibitions, was making faster progress — drifting stylishly across the piste and only once coming to grief, when she

forgot to keep her weight on her toes, caught a heel edge and was catapulted backwards down the slope. Next, we graduated to heel edge; this time starting off facing downhill, "weight on our heels, bottom out, legs almost straight."

"Pretend you've just been punched in the solar plexus," Chester said helpfully. Feeling fairly winded after several falls, I did not find this

difficult, although my progress was still too much of a white-knuckle ride for me to achieve the desired air of relaxed insouciance. Victoria was gliding serenely from side to side "like a drifting leaf", crowed Chester, and, by the second lesson, had reached the stage of smoothly negotiating a turn from a toe edge at one side of the piste onto a heel edge to reach the other. This is the level before achieving the

short zig-zags of snowboarding proper.

By her third lesson, Victoria was utterly hooked, requesting a specialist snowboarding session, wittily entitled "board stiffs", three hours of loud music, laddishness (from both sexes) and heart-stopping aerobics. Oh to be 16 again! On my form, I shall be about ready to accompany her when snowboarding becomes an Olympic sport, in 1998.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Gunnar Hallberg, the Sweden International and TGR regular, was East on this hand. He found the correct play by using the most important tool of defence, counting the declarer's tricks.

Dealer South Love all Rubber bridge

♠ A65	♥ A2	♦ K1092	♣ A
♥ 6543	♦ KQJ5	♥ K87	♠ A
♠ 32	♣ J64	♦ 10887	♣ 5
♠ K1082	♥ A	♠ 10987	♣ 5
	♥ A	♠ 10987	♣ 5
	♥ A	♠ 10987	♣ 5
	♥ A	♠ 10987	♣ 5
	♥ A	♠ 10987	♣ 5

S	W	N	E
1 NT (12-14)	Pass	2 C	Pass
2 H	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Contract: 3 NT by South Lead: Two of clubs

Declarer played low from dummy on the club lead, East played the queen and declarer won the ace. Declarer played on hearts. East winning the third round with dummy discarding a spade. At this point, many players would automatically return a club. Now, after West takes his king, declarer has nine tricks.

Can you see any improvement for the defence? What Hallberg did when he won the king of hearts was to count declarer's tricks. South was bound to have the ace of diamonds — else why would he not be playing on diamonds, rather than removing the ace of hearts as entry to them? So, it was clear that South had seven tricks in the red suits to go with the ace of clubs, and a club return would

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Queen sacrifice

Today, I continue my preview of the category 20 Las Palmas tournament, which will start on December 8 and aspires to be the strongest tournament in the history of chess. Although Kasparov and Karpov remain the favourites, any one of the other contestants — Ivanchuk, Kramnik, Anand and Topalov — is capable of carrying off first prize. The game today shows Ivanchuk in sparkling form. His queen sacrifice on move 21 is quite extraordinary.

White: Vassily Ivanchuk

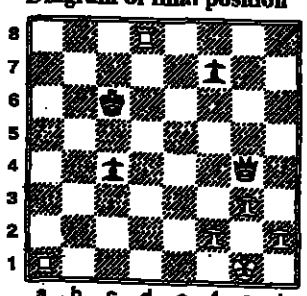
Black: Alexei Shirov

Wijk aan Zee, 1996

Semi-Slav Defence

1 d4	d5
2 c4	c6
3 Nc3	Nf6
4 Nf3	e6
5 Bg5	dxc4
6 e4	b5
7 e5	h6
8 Bh4	g5
9 Ng5	Ng5
10 Bxg5	Nb7
11 ex6	Bb7
12 g3	c5
13 d5	Qd6
14 Bg2	0-0-0
15 Qd4	b4
16 Na4	Qb6
17 a3	exd5
18 exb4	cd4
19 Be3	Nc5
20 Qg4+	Rd7
21 Qg7	Bg7
22 Ng5	Rg8
23 Ne6	d4
24 Bxb7+	Rxb7
25 Nc7	Qc6
26 Bxd4	Qxd4
27 Rd1	Qxb2
28 Nd5+	Kd8
29 Rdh1	Qg7

Diagram of final position



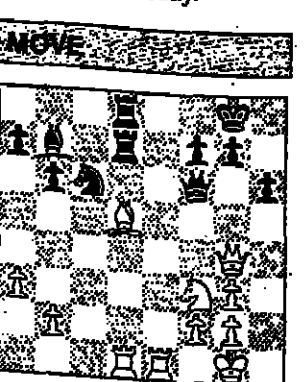
This astounding game will appear with detailed notes on Saturday.

Variant chess

On December 1, a chess tournament will be held in Gdansk where the theme will be to play ten different variations of normal chess. Competitions will include progressive chess, extinction chess and losing chess. Those interested in entering should ring 01483 766805.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing). Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



By Raymond Keene

White to play. From the game Kasparov — Karpov, Moscow, 1985. Black may have been dreaming that he had equalised the position thanks to the symmetrical pawn structure and his pressure on the d-file. He was in for a rude awakening. What did White play?

Solution on page 50

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PORTLY
a. The fat boy in Pickwick
b. Mr Bultitude
c. A young oter

BLATANT BEAST

a. A monster
b. A rapist
c. Billy Bunter

MTURK
a. A crossbred Irish turkey
b. A schoolboy
c. Kemal Atatürk

TADPOLE AND TAPER

a. Political activists
b. Dickensian lawyers
c. Victorian music hall artists

Answers on page 50

GETTING STARTED: It is

advisable to try the sport in Great Britain, learning through a BSA qualified instructor, to make sure that you enjoy it before booking a snowboarding holiday abroad and spending money on equipment. Tamworth Snowdome and most of Britain's dry slopes will hire out snowboards and boots and provide instruction. Learning on a dry ski slope demands greater precision as it is possible to "cheat" more on snow, where the board slides back into alignment more easily.

AGE RANGE: Tamworth's snowboarders range from nine (the lower age limit) to 75. Children and teenagers tend to become good quickly because of their extra flexibility, lack of inhibitions and lower centres of gravity, but with perseverance and a moderate level of fitness, anyone can master snowboarding — given time.

COST: The prices at Tamworth are comparable with dry slopes in the rest of Britain, but all vary slightly. A group lesson at the snowdome costs between £18 and £50 an hour; an individual session £33. Once you

TAKING UP SNOWBOARDING



Learning on a dry ski slope requires great precision

have grasped the basics, an hour's recreational boarding costs £13.00 off-peak (£14.50 at peak times) and £8.50 for Snowdome members, who pay an annual fee of £50.

EQUIPMENT: The price varies depending on quality, particularly the snowboards, which are made like broad skis with a wooden core,

carbon-fibre base, metal edges and metal nose and tail. Most beginners start on a "free-ride" board, longer and with less give than "freestyle" boards, used for tricks and jumps, but shorter and more flexible than the "Alpine" boards used in slalom. A basic board costs about £200, while a competition board would be nearer

to £550. Boots range from £70 to £220.

A standard padded waterproof jacket and trousers, cut like baggy jeans with reinforced bottom and knees, are about £100, but the more fashionable heavy-duty versions with hoods and hidden zips can cost double this amount. Gloves range from £25 to £100 and child snowboarders are advised to wear helmets (about £25).

TIPS FOR BEGINNERS: Always wear gloves and well-padded kit: beginners fall constantly and frequent tumbles on icy pistes and dry slopes alike can prove bruising without a reasonable level of upholstery, particularly on the knees and bottom. Try to relax as you fall, rather than tensing up, and avoid putting out your hands to save yourself because of the risk of wrist and finger injuries.

For further information contact the British Snowboarding Association, 5, Cresser Road, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP12 4PG (fax: 01494 462225) or Tamworth Snowdome, Leisure Island, River Drive, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B79 7ND (tel: 01827 67905).

Little girls of the gym become women of substance.

I got a touch fed up with the dark side of man's soul last week. Actually, they were both quite good books, the two boxing titles in the shortlist for the William Hill sports book of the year award, but after a bit, I could not help feeling, well, that's enough dark side of the soul, Ed.

After two books on the awful beauty of boxing, another book on the shortlist dwelt at length on the ugliness and cruelty of another sport. So, at the weekend, shunning the voluptuous pleasures of boxing, I sought the foulness and depravity of the DFB-Pokal International in Stuttgart.

Oh I thought. Oh! What is this dark side of my soul, this terrible aspect of human nature, that makes me delight in women's gymnastics? Is it, perhaps, the sad dignity of the battered and bruised performers like Svetlana Chorkina? Or is it the terrible spectacle of grace under pressure?

[This was an invitation event, part of the so-called grand prix circuit, an effort to promote gymnastics and its performers outside the

leading competitions. It is a nice idea that has yet to set the world alight, they keep talking about a grand prix in Birmingham, and one of the sponsors pulled out of the weekend's event, but it was all wonderful stuff, if you are strong-minded enough to put up with all this terrible communion with the dark side of your soul.

Chorkina is a giantess. She is the queen of the asymmetric bars, which is a tribute to her extraordinary will, and to the inventiveness of her coach, who says that he has often dreamt moves for his charge. For she stands 5ft 5in, and practically all of that is thigh. She is also in the process of seizing the title of the diva of the gym, with the great Svetlana Boginskaya no longer a force.

A little-known fact about divas is that they work extremely hard to stay divas. In the practice arena, I watched Chorkina stretch and tumble remorselessly, while Boris Pilkin, her coach, the aforementioned dreamer, said: "It's hard for her, being so tall. She must show every element better than every-

Simon Barnes sees evidence that the sport has more to it than tales of bullying and cruelty

body else. This is because, with her build, every small mistake is exaggerated. She must do everything to 100 per cent, but it is something that works two ways. If she does it very well, it looks much better with her than with the others. So she will get higher marks."

She walks, then, a tightrope of perfection. She looked even taller than she did at the Olympic Games in Atlanta, and she is certainly a little heavier. She has changed her Sainsbury's checkout girl quiff, too. If was she, you will recall, whose reaction to winning gold on the asymmetric bars was: "First, I would like lots of compliments and, second, I would like lots of flowers."

I have discussed the book about cruelty in gymnastics before: it is called *Little Girls in Pretty Boxes*, by Joan Ryan, and it is an important book, with some terrible stuff about bullying coaches. Do

you and Svetlana have rows, I asked Pilkin. "She has a temperment," he said. "She is always herself, and always has a need to win, but me, I am never loud. If you want someone to hear you, you speak more softly. She, sometimes, is loud, but me, I do not shout. I do not scold her. She knows herself when she has made a mistake."

Ryan's book contains many examples of the horrors, psychological and physical, inflicted by coaches and, for that matter, parents on little girl gymnasts; but it does not tell the whole story.

Behind every tennis prodigy, there is a tennis child. The prodigy may be pushed, cajoled and bullied; but there cannot be a competitor without desire. A complicated business, I know, but the fact is that these elite female gymnasts have, in themselves, a desire to perform, to fly, to win.

Before the event in Stuttgart

began, I watched Gina Geogan, of Romania. She had entered the main arena, to accustom herself to the nature and the feel of the place, and, after her coach had gone, she remained. Sitting, thinking, absorbing the vibes of the Schleyer-Halle with a quiet seriousness. She did not want to gossip with her pals. She wanted to win.

Every now and then, she would perform a thisledown tumble, mostly working on the back layout, the most beautiful single movement in all of sport. You cannot be an elite performer without a will of iron; not your coach's or your parents' will, but your own.

The bullying coach is a fact in all sports. It is just that we do not see them. All sports have their cruelties (sport being an aspect of life) and sporting injuries to children are inevitable. How many boys' ambitions end with knees damaged by too much football? All elite performers in every sport balance precariously on the summit of a pyramid of the broken dreams of others.

Right now, gymnastics gives us a chance to savour the skills of the older competitors. The rules have been changed. Competitors must now be at least 16 in the year of competition; with a new intake held back, the older competitors have an opportunity to expand their ideas and the nature of their sport.

It is less a sport for pre-pubescent pixies these days, as Chorkina and the rest show you. Little girls move with frenzied urgency of the kind first invented by the still-unforgettable Olga Korbut, but Chorkina moved into first places in the asymmetric bars with a routine of languorous grace. The taller you are, the more astonishing is flight, and Chorkina is truly astounding.

She did not win, because the event had a gimmicky jump-off format, and she made a mess of it. Kathleen Kern, a German (incidentally, married and aged 21), won it. It made up for her floor routine, that was wrecked when she suffered the misfortune of having her leotard go up her bum. Ah me! A cruel business, elite sport.

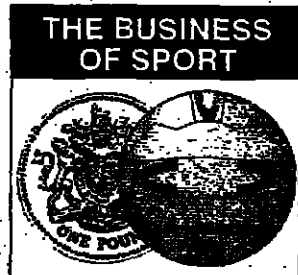


Chorkina has emerged as the diva of gymnastics

City slump gives food for thought

Supporters of clubs who have failed to live up to expectations so far this season — such as Nottingham Forest and Bradford City — can always take heart that they do not support Manchester City. There are stories that a gypsy curse was placed on Maine Road, probably around the time that Malcolm Allison signed Rodney Marsh in the early Seventies; and since then, under the chairmanship of first the late Peter Swales and now Francis Lee, City have been perennial under-achievers. However, their present plight, with a managerless team sliding towards the Nationwide League second division, must rank as the darkest of many dark hours.

The talk in the wine bars of Manchester is that Lee is "cheesed off" and wants to sell out. Apparently, a stream of suitors has been knocking on his door, willing to purchase his 15 per cent stake in the club and put in fresh finance. Names in the frame have ranged from the Conrad Group, which failed in the bidding for Leeds United and is now buying Sheffield United, to Prince Al-Waleed, a saviour of lost causes ranging from Euro Disney to Canary Wharf, to a group



and Southend United. The playing squad clearly needs attention, but the sale of Georgi Kinkladze, the skilled Georgia international playmaker, could realise £5 million or more, which could be used to buy two or three British battlers to pull City out of the mire. In theory, a good management team could, therefore, turn the ship around for an investment of only a few million pounds — although, to be on the safe side, it would be preferable to have £10 million to play with.

What would you get for the money? City is a big club, not as big as its neighbour, Manchester United, perhaps

An offer of £10 million could be successful

not as big as Liverpool, Everton, Arsenal or Tottenham Hotspur, but, if Chelsea is worth £150 million and Newcastle United (which was in the same fix as City only four years ago) can think of

floating with a value of more than £100 million, then a Manchester City restored to the FA Cup Final Premiership must be worth at least £50 million. City also has a good raft of celebrity supporters, including the Gallagher brothers, Noel and Liam, of Oasis fame, Bernard Manning, the comedian, Bob Willis, the former fast-bowling England cricket captain, and Howard Davies, the deputy governor of the Bank of England.

If the club is to be taken over, the most obvious candidate to do so is Stephen Boler, the kitchen's tycoon, who recently cashed in a 33 per cent stake in his Limekiln Group for more than £50 million. He once owned 28 per cent of City, but cut that to 15 per cent when Lee took charge. Boler likes to be in the background and has never taken a seat on the board, but, having got out of one Limekiln, is this the time for him to step into another?

JASON NISSE



Keegan, centre, the Birkdale School scrum half, who capped an impressive performance with his team's try, takes on Silcoates' defensive cover

Stimpson hard act to follow at Silcoates

By BARRY TROWBRIDGE

A HUT on Loughrigg Fell, in the Lake District, and a nine-hole par-three golf course in the school grounds number among the outdoor facilities offered by Silcoates School, on the northwest outskirts of Wakefield, but it was a far more traditional school activity — rugby union — that held the attention of staff and pupils on Saturday as Tim Stimpson, the captain of the first XV as recently as 1991-92, made his debut for England in the international against Italy at Twickenham.

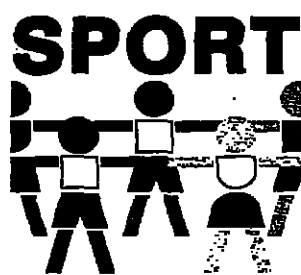
Having switched its status from being a boarding institution for boys to one primarily for day students, of both sexes, in 1992, and with the last boarder leaving 18 months ago, Silcoates no longer timetable lessons on Saturday mornings. So, on days such as Saturday, games fixtures can be completed in ample time for a liberal dose

of hero worship to be accommodated after lunch.

For the first time, Birkdale School, from Sheffield, provided Silcoates' opponents this weekend, in a scheduled six fixtures, home and away, brought about after Steve Teasdale took up the post of master-in-charge of rugby there 18 months ago and reacquired himself with Alan Gammon, his counterpart at Birkdale, with whom he was a student at Madeley College, in Staffordshire, and represented that county at the hallowed game.

Snow in South Yorkshire restricted the programme to the three games in Wakefield and, on a crisp morning, honours were split perfectly, each school recording a 10-7 victory with the third game shared 22-22.

In Stimpson's final year at Silcoates, when he played on the wing for England 18 Group, his XV included several scholars who now play



for Sandral in the fourth division of the Courage Clubs Championship as well as Jon Shepherd, a regular try-scorer for Morley in the third division, and, not surprisingly, it enjoyed what senior members of staff enthusiastically described as "a wonderful year". Time, though, moves on, and although Teasdale's first XV gave him the moral upper hand over his old friend with victory in the top game, he willingly admitted that his is not a team to

threaten the local three-pronged power base of Queen Elizabeth's, Bradford and Leeds Grammar Schools.

With four fifth-formers in the first XV and 12 in the second XV against Birkdale, Silcoates have that undefinable quality, potential, but needed tries from two pupils who moved to the school only after taking GCSEs elsewhere and more than a little (unsolicited) help from Fred Lindop, the referee, to see off Birkdale.

Formerly a top official, whistle-blower, in rugby league — abundantly apparent from his hand signals — Lindop failed to deal effectively with the in-house "disputes" between the front rows and enamoured himself even less to the neutrals (as well as to the Birkdale supporters) on the touchline when he awarded Dominic Brindley, the Silcoates full back, captain and puppeteer supreme, a try, 25 minutes into the game,

when he dropped the ball on his way to ground after slicing his way through from the 22.

That "score" prompted an instant rally from Birkdale, who, within six minutes, had taken the lead when Robert Keegan, their scrum half, went solo from a tapped penalty ten metres out and Tim Wadsworth converted; and with Tom Marples — the epitome of a schoolboy prop — and Chika Uzoigwe outstanding among the forwards, they showed enough spark to take the honours.

The fire, though, never quite ignited — and, as the game ran its ill-tempered and technically indifferent course in the second half, Matthew Gwynne, their scrum half, recaptured the lead for Silcoates with another individual effort and the scoring — and what little creative excitement that the game had to offer — was over.

SCORES: Silcoates: Vase, D Brindley, M Gwynne, Birkdale: Try: R Keegan, Converter: M Wadsworth

SAILING

Challenge crews find light winds heavy going

By EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

ATTIMES, some of the yachts are doing less than one knot; at others, up to eight as variable and light winds off the Uruguayan coast continue to make the first stages of the second leg of the BT Global Challenge a nerve-racking and exhausting affair.

The fleet is still relatively closely bunched with an east-west spread of 118 miles and only 43 miles between front and back. As a result, the nominal ranking order has been changing by the hour. At one point on Saturday, the disabled crew on *Time & Tide* took the lead as a result of taking the most westerly or inshore course.

Their moment of glory, though, proved to be just that, as they sailed into light airs and dropped from the head of the fleet to twelfth place. They had recovered slightly yesterday to be lying ninth, ahead of *Commercial Union* and behind *Nuclear Electric*.

For the first time since the leg began, Mike Golding — the first leg winner on *Group 4* — was back in front yesterday. He seemed to be finding just a little more boat speed than his closest rivals, but was still slopping along at only 4½ knots. Golding had established a gap of nine miles over Simon Walker, on *Toshiba Wave Warrior*.

For the crews, it has been exciting but tiring. At various moments, up to seven yachts are in visual range of each other and the skippers have been extra vigilant with sail

BT Global Challenge latest positions Page 40

trimming and sail changes to try to stay ahead.

A message to race headquarters from *Toshiba* on Saturday underlined how close the racing has been. "This morning's position report had ten yachts within four miles of the leader," it said. "We can see six yachts and bearings are being taken on our closest rivals regularly. Sail trimming is continuous. This is exciting sailing and demonstrates how closely matched the fleet can be, with the lead having changed hands three or four times in the past 12 hours."

Boris Webber, the skipper of *Courtauld's International*, who had a horrible first leg and started the second with a stomach bug, is clearly delighted to be back in the thick of things and lying in fourth place yesterday. "Making good progress with good teamwork resulting from good morale, anticipation and initiative," he reported.

In the Vendée global single-handed non-stop round-the-world race, the two leading yachts, Isabelle Autissier's *PRB* and Christophe Auguin's *Geodis*, are averaging around 16 knots as they continue south towards the Roaring Forties.

Yves Parlier is third, about 70 miles behind the leading pair, having improvised a new foremast after his original one broke. There is then a gap of 320 miles to Hervé Laurent, on *Groupe LG*. Pete Goss, of Great Britain, on *Aqua Quorum*, is ninth, about 1,000 miles behind Autissier, but leading the third group of yachts. A further 1,200 miles behind is Tony Bullimore, the only other Briton in the race, on *Exide Challenger*.

Handball primed to land its biggest catch

David Powell on how a once debt-ridden sport is eyeing the ultimate goal of Olympic qualification

ONE is played with the feet and is the national sport, where a million pounds is loose change. The other is played with the hands, receives little recognition and has had to rely on assistance to get itself straight. Football and handball. Similar in name, both logically named. Why is tennis not racketball, hockey not stick ball, or cricket not bat ball?

Football and handball are two sports from one pod: all you need to play is a ball and two goals. Football may be more popular than ever, but a growing number of young people would rather play handball.

According to Jeff Rowland, the chairman of the British Handball Association (BHA), the sport is played by 20,000 schoolchildren. When the BHA was being bailed out of debt, the Sports Council set it participation targets. "The easiest way to raise participation levels is in the schools," Rowland said. "Now, more than 300 schools are playing."

One is Haslingden Primary, Rossendale, where it is given equal PE time with football, netball and swim-

ming. Rowland also coaches after school once a week. Because the game requires no difficult skills at beginner stage, children take to it immediately. "It is such a natural sport," Rowland said. "All they are doing is throwing, catching, running and jumping."

The rules are easy to learn: players can hold the ball for three seconds and take a maximum of three steps. To go further, you have to bounce the ball. "You do not teach them to run and bounce too early because they get selfish and the idea is to get as many children as possible involved," Rowland said.

It is ideal for schools because it is easy to instruct and cheap. Mike Onyon, Haslingden's head teacher, said that starting handball from scratch costs the school some £200, whereas football and netball would be close to £1,000. "It has been of tremendous value because it encour-

ages people who are not involved in other sporting activities," Onyon said. "They can compete from a low skill level."

What do the children think? Of six interviewed, four said that they preferred handball to football. One is Christopher Tattersall, who plays for the school football team. "You get more passing about in handball and everybody can play, that is what I like," he said.

Rowland's enthusiasm is infectious. As president of the Commonwealth Handball Association, he was about to leave for the Commonwealth Cup in South Africa, but this day in Lancashire he was savouring two primary school players who caught his eye. "He is only 11½, but he has great athletic skills," Rowland said of Satish Nawaz. "A brilliant goalkeeper," was his verdict on Stephen Claxton.

At Haslingden, the pyramid is

complete: primary school feeds into secondary, secondary into the local club. There are 80 clubs in Great Britain, changed days from 1989, when handball was on its knees. "We were in such a mess, £30,000 in debt, no development programme, and there were only 14 members of the association," Rowland said.

A Sports Council grant of £10,000, a £23,000 loan from the British Olympic Association and sponsorship from NatWest Bank helped to put the BHA in the black this year for the first time. The job that Rowland started in 1968, when he and three others each chipped in a fiver to form the BHA, running it from a Liverpool fishing tackle shop, could land its catch in 2004.

As the school's programme begins to bite, the BHA is looking towards Olympic qualification. "Great Britain has a 100 per cent failure record in qualifying for indoor team sports in the summer Olympic Games," Rowland said. Nawaz and Claxton, and growing numbers like them, fill Rowland with hope that handball can reverse the trend.

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Graham Clayton introduces a two-page report on a vital programme linking industry and academia

A bridge to Britain's future

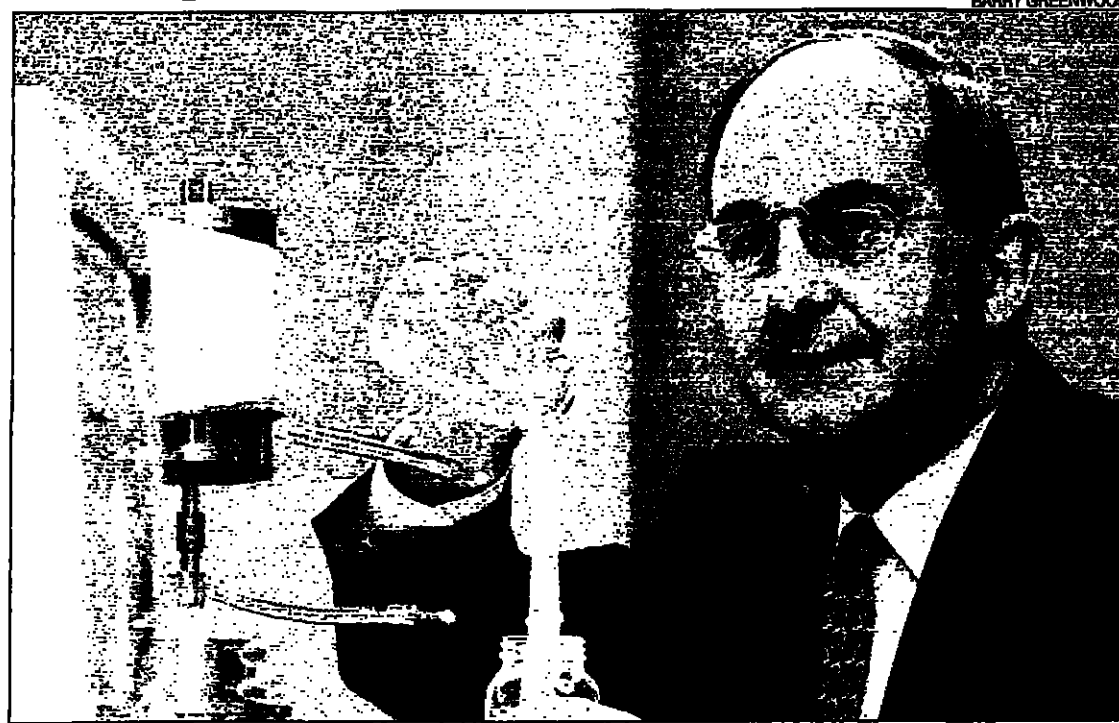
Casual visitors to some British universities, particularly those institutions with an emphasis on science and technology, could be excused for thinking they had wandered into some part of the United Nations.

Lecture halls, seminar rooms and laboratories seem to contain representatives from every part of the world. This, of course, is a welcome state of affairs. Many of the universities have a global reputation which brings in a steady stream of overseas students and much-needed finance. There is, however, a worrying aspect. There used to be a comforting idea that the developing countries of the world would concentrate on manufacturing, while the research capabilities of the developed countries would keep them at the leading edge of new technologies. But the enthusiasm with which the tiger economies send students to Western universities, particularly those in the UK, make it obvious that they, too, want to be at that same leading edge.

In an increasingly competitive world, this makes it vitally important for British companies to ensure they get the best they can from universities, in both research and training. It is here that the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has a key role.

The council spans the three classical science disciplines of chemistry, physics and mathematics. It takes in a set of engineering disciplines and it includes two very large programmes which are called generic technologies. These are of crucial importance because they impact on almost every part of science and engineering: one is information technology and the other is materials.

The EPSRC is like a bridge between industry and academia, using government money to make grants to scientific research and training. It sees its function as



Professor Howard Barnes, of the IGDS advisory panel, says it is marvellous to see delegates interacting

developing the skills which the UK will need. In its training portfolio is the Integrated Graduate Development Scheme (IGDS) aimed specifically at graduates who have worked for a few years in their chosen industry.

Students who complete an IGDS course receive a masters degree. At the other end of the scale, the council offers PhD and post-doctoral opportunities. "We have an array of programmes," says Professor Richard Brook, EPSRC chief executive, "which try to provide an imaginative contribution at each stage in a person's career."

"We already have schemes where the university interest in research is

well represented, but we also need schemes where the industrial viewpoint can make itself felt. The IGDS is one where a group of industrial colleagues can meet and say 'we don't have any people who can do this', or 'this subject is now moving very fast, we need people well trained in it'."

The IGDS programme began in 1979 and has grown steadily. There are about 40 courses throughout the UK involving 45 academic institutions and over 300 companies. The EPSRC currently invests £2.8 million a year which is used to cover setting-up costs such as the development of course modules and the salary of course co-ordinators. The aim is that the courses should become self-

financing within five years. Each course is set up by a partnership between one or more universities and a group of companies, usually about half a dozen. All courses have a management committee, chaired by a senior industrialist and are aimed at delegates who have a first degree and have spent some time working in industry.

"Each university," says Professor Howard Barnes, chairman of the IGDS advisory panel, "has to validate its own courses. We insist on this as part of the quality control mechanism; all courses have to go before their academic boards. They also have to be sure that the delegates have the appropriate qualifications —

normally degrees, although sometimes they will take people with other qualifications."

Each course comprises up to a dozen or more one-week short courses or modules, some of which may be compulsory. In addition, students undertake a project, usually involving research on an industrial problem which is important to their company. At Imperial College, London, for example, there are almost 30 IGDS students investigating the corrosion of engineering materials. Corrosion costs industry £10 billion a year, a quarter of which could be saved, the college says, using existing techniques.

Those who complete the full two or three-year course successfully are awarded an MSc. This can differ from an MSc awarded to a graduate who has done a year's full-time study at university after completing a first degree. In this case, the MSc is likely to be based on further specialised study of the original subject.

The masters degree awarded as a result of an IGDS course is usually more broadly based, for example including modules covering various aspects of management.

Like the EPSRC, Professor Barnes himself is something of a bridge between industry and academia. A senior scientist at Unilever Research, he also holds visiting professorships at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth in mathematics and at Liverpool University in mechanical engineering. "One of the great things is when you go along to these schemes, and see the delegates. They are all talking to each other. It is marvellous how they interact, help each other and pass on their own experiences. In a sense they are educating themselves."

The courses, in short, give delegates access to technical advances, management skills and contact with a wide range of specialists.

Learning how to improve the firm

THERE are three strands in Anne Sanlon's life. Two are not unusual: running a family and having a full-time career. To these she has added continuing academic development.

Her father worked at Rolls-Royce before moving on to lecture at Newcastle, suggesting perhaps that both engineering and academic ability run in the family. After completing a course in aeronautics at Imperial College, London, she applied for a job with Harland & Wolff in Belfast where she is now a naval architect. Mrs Sanlon joined the company in 1985 and after a while began to feel a bit constrained by working in just one department. Then she came across a notice advertising the IGDS programme.

"It was wider than just engineering topics and that was what appealed. It was a block release scheme, not evenings, and that appealed. Also I had promised myself when I left university that I would never do another exam in my life. I liked the idea of it being assignment-based."

In 1992 she started a three-year course in Manufacturing, Technology, Design and Management, offered by Queens University and the University of Ulster.

Each delegate or student had to do 12 modules, six of which were compulsory.



Anne Sanlon: guidelines

These covered a wide range of topics including people skills, accounts, quality, operations management, production management, industrial relations, IT and design strategy.

Every delegate had to do a project and Mrs Sanlon's focused on the need for shipbuilders to respond quickly when invited to tender for a project. "We were finding that even though we had the information, it used to take an awful lot of time to get it all together. What I did was set out design guidelines. It is trying to get the design right first time."

All this work brought Mrs Sanlon an MSc with distinction. And there was more: "I was encouraged by the tutor who took me for the project. He told me that what I had done was half way to a doctorate. So, in October I started a D.Phil."

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"DERA are pleased to be associated with the IGDS programme in electronic system design at the University of Huddersfield."

How Ford keeps itself in the fast lane

AUTOMOTIVE

A VERY large organisation has diverse training needs. Ford has about 340,000 employees in 90 countries and it has always acknowledged the importance of education and training.

Over the past ten years, this importance has grown because automotive technology is moving ahead so rapidly. Professor Geoff Johnson, education programmes co-ordinator for Ford in Europe, says: "There needs to be a continuous development of the employee. So, a good first degree in engineering science will get the engineer into the company and then after about three years he would need to go on to do a masters degree. And this isn't something special, this is the norm."

A survey of training needs in 1990 produced some worrying findings. It showed, for example, that in Ford of Germany, 60 per cent of engineers had degrees and many had ones they considered to be equivalent to a masters. In the UK, the figure was less than 30 per cent. Over the past five years, the company has developed a wide range of programmes. However, Professor Johnson felt there was something missing.



Professor Geoff Johnson.

While working at Hertfordshire University, he met Professor Peter Bullen who had been thinking along similar lines. This was the moment when the idea of a IGDS course in Automotive Engineering Design, Manufacture and Management was born. The course began in 1994 and the first students will graduate in November next year.

"I think our programme has been enormously successful," says Professor Johnson. "We have to turn people away from it." It is this which is posing the next challenge for Ford. The company simply cannot afford to release engineers to attend residential courses even if these only last a week or so.

Professor Johnson favours distance learning using multimedia packages. Whether that will appeal quite as strongly to the students is another matter.

Alan Jenkins on nurturing management potential

Managers in the making

The University of Strathclyde in Glasgow has long been a principal player in the power game. Its Centre for Electrical Power Engineering is the largest institute of its kind in the UK. It is no surprise that when the National Grid began looking for a technical MBA, it was Strathclyde which came up with the most positive response.

A consortium was formed four years ago between the university and six electricity supply companies to put together an Integrated Graduate Development Scheme programme to nurture management potential in the industry. The result is that nearly 60 delegates from companies throughout the UK are now involved in three-year courses leading to an MSc in electricity industry management and technology.

ScottishPower played a key role in setting up the course, both in its composition and in

guaranteeing to send delegates for the first three years. The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council provided funds for the first five years on a pump-priming basis and the first course, with delegates mainly from Scot-

land, got under way in May 1994. More courses started in the following two years, each with a planned intake of between 15 and 20.

Delegates are likely to be selected by their companies from among practising engineers who have already have several years' operational experience after acquiring a good first degree. Delegates are expected to undertake five modules a year for the first two years. In the third year they will undertake an in-company project demonstrating the integration of skills acquired during the course.

Each module involves a short residential course or distance learning delivered either by the power centre or its Strathclyde partners in the enterprise, the Graduate Business School and the Information Technology Associate Company Scheme.

Gordon Henderson, the programme manager, says: "The content is industrially-driven, providing companies with what they ask for. Unlike an ordinary master's degree the syllabus is flexible and people don't need to spend extended time away from their work. The feedback so far is very positive."

Ed Beswick, ScottishPower's training and development manager, says: "Assignments are taken back to the workplace, which means that the programme is strictly relevant to the things the engineers are working on. And for our delegates the opportunity to obtain an academic award is an obvious motivation."

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If we are to keep up with our international competitors, British industry needs to invest more in training the scientists, engineers and managers on whom our future depends. The Integrated Graduate Development Scheme (IGDS), supported by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, helps ensure that your company has the expertise to thrive in the global market-place by providing employees with technical knowledge and complementary skills.

Employees with a Masters level IGDS course behind them are more likely to be a major asset for their company: highly trained, highly motivated, and able to take on a demanding role at a relatively young age.

Quite apart from its considerable benefits for individual employees, IGDS can also benefit your company by establishing a long-term partnership with a university, resulting in a sharing of knowledge and the cross-fertilisation of ideas. It will also provide new links with other companies in your sector.

There are 45 IGDS programmes at Universities throughout the UK, covering a wide range of industrial sectors:

PROGRAMME TITLE	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
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Packaging Technology	Mr P Schmidt-Hansen	01895 274000 x2306
Underwater Technology & Subsea Engineering	Prof J Billingham	01234 750111
Water & Wastewater Technology	Prof T Stephenson	01234 754056
Industrial Data Modelling	Prof D Teather	0116 257 7472
Electronic Product Engineering	Mr S B Morgan	01443 482526
Bulk Solids Handling Technologies	Dr P Marjanovic	0141 3313741
Technology Management	Mrs C Alexander	0131 4513192
Auto. Eng. Design Manufacture & Management	Miss P Taylor	01707 285084
Manufacturing Systems Engineering	Mr D Faulder	0191 2227344
Electronic & Computer Based Design & Technology Management	Dr S Ward	01484 472470
Corrosion of Engineering Materials	Dr P S Sidley	0171 594 6755
Information Systems Design & Management	Ms C Adams	0181 5477904
Colour Application Technology	Dr A Gilchrist	0113 2332 2948
Managing Catalytic Technology	Dr R Raval	0151 794 3584
Manufacturing and Technology Management	Mr E Walker	0151 794 4929
Maintenance Engineering	Dr A D Ball	0161 275 4347
Manufacturing Systems Engineering & Management	Mr I Gill	0161 872 0393 x3008
Manufacture and Design for Polymer Products	Dr M O'Brien	0171 753 5128
Construction Engineering Design & Management	Mr J Greenwood	0115 948 6008
Contaminated Land Management: Assessment, Investigation and Remediation	Dr P Nathanael	0115 948 6004
Surface Design and Engineering	Prof J V Wood	0115 9513738
Software Engineering	Dr J Axford	01865 270360
Engineering Design & Manufacture	Mr D Smyth	0141 8483559
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TO FIND OUT MORE

For further information on IGDS please contact Rachel Howell, Schemes Group, EPSRC, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon SN2 1EL. Tel: 01793 444038. Fax: 01793 444562. e-mail: Schemes@epsrc.ac.uk



The Aerospace IGDS A Professional Development Scheme

The Integrated Graduate Development Scheme for Aerospace is a professional development scheme for experienced technical managers working in the Aerospace and related industries. Companies sponsor delegates on the scheme to take selected modules or short courses as required from the areas of Aerospace Design, Manufacture, Business and Management.

The scheme is now well established with over 100 delegates enrolled, over 30 modules available and seven universities participating. There are also over 30 companies and organisations involved in the scheme and in its management by the Bristol Consortium. The 'Bristol Consortium' comprises the University of Bristol and the University of the West of England, Bristol assisted by other universities and the partner companies. The scheme is managed, developed and delivered in partnerships between the companies and the universities.

WHAT DOES IT OFFER?

- Short courses A selection of short courses to support personal professional development
- Part-time MSc You complete 12 one-week modules plus an industry-based project over a three year period.
- Full-time MSc As above but condensed into one year.

WHO IS IT FOR?

For experienced graduates or equivalent (e.g. HND plus professional experience). Start at any time throughout the year. The aim is to provide a broadening technical education and to enhance management and business skills.

HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

For an Information Pack and video please contact the IGDS Office: Faculty of Engineering, University of Bristol, Queens Building, University Walk, Bristol BS8 1TR. Tel 0117 928 9757 Fax 0117 925 1154

The Aerospace IGDS is supported by, amongst others:



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Mark Howard, research leader with BAe Airbus

IT HAS been another good year for Airbus, the European aircraft manufacturer. The crowning achievement came this month when the airline USAir agreed to orders and options for up to 400 of the company's planes.

Airbus brings together manufacturers in its four full partners — Britain, France, Germany and Spain — and its associates, Holland and Belgium. Each tends to specialise, with British Aerospace Airbus having prime responsibility for wings and fuel systems.

British Aerospace Airbus, based at Filton near Bristol, is an enthusiastic supporter of the IGDS in Aerospace

AEROSPACE

Design, Manufacture and Management. The company has put more than 40 of its engineers through the IGDS course since it started in 1991. "We are careful about the people we pick," says Duncan Greenman, a human resources manager at British Aerospace Airbus, "because we have got to make sure they have the ability and interest, the dedication and determination; we have also got to make sure we make the best possible use of them in the future."

One of those who met these criteria is Mark Howard,

research project leader with British Aerospace Airbus. His first degree is Engineering with Aeronautics which he took at Bath and he is now coming to the end of the IGDS course which should secure him an MSc. "Looking back to five years ago, I had a narrow view of my job although my interests were wide. The IGDS course broadened my knowledge, not only of British Aerospace, but of the engineering industry and the helicopter industry. Then there is a sharing of best practice — you find out about the way in which other companies operate."

Both men agree that the IGDS process broadens delegates' knowledge and awareness, giving them an appreciation of business and human issues as well as engineering and technology. In addition, the course helps them to build up contacts and in many cases it also makes them more self-confident.

There is the potential for long-term value as well. "These people," says Mr Greenman, "have been given a preparation for the rest of their careers and the majority are under thirty. So we are preparing them for 20 or 30 more years of valuable service with the company."

Degree of experience is priceless

PACKAGING

COLIN HATTON fails to match any of the usual criteria for an IGDS course. Fifty this year, he decided to set up as a consultant after more than 20 years with HMSO, where he worked in a laboratory evaluating paper and other materials. While he had built up considerable experience over those years, he feels that getting a degree will be valuable in his new career.

He took an exam to gain Membership of the Institute of Packaging, which qualified him to go on an IGDS course on Packaging Technology run by Brunel and Loughborough Universities. He started in 1994 and, as he is self-employed, is paying his own course fees of about £7,000. "I decided to spend a little bit in the hope of returning more," he says.

With a practical turn of mind and a determination to solve problems, Mr Hatton has already had some success in his new career. He has developed a small, plastic attaché case for the National Extension College as an alternative to conventional ring-binders for holding course material.

Another idea is a lightweight support that can be clipped to the back of a ring-binder, holding it at an angle which makes it easier to read. The support folds away and can be clipped to the ring-binder.

With obvious delight, he opens an ordinary IGDS course ring-binder to reveal a mass of papers neatly separated by coloured plastic strips which have sliding pieces to mark a point of interest on a particular page. This idea, he hopes, will get him his MSc and possibly be a commercial success as well.

While Mr Hatton is not a typical student, his course follows the typical IGDS format. It is part-time and includes nine modules: five are one-week residential modules at the two universities and the others are studied by distance learning. Successful completion leads to a diploma, while adding a project offers the prospect of an MSc.

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How to turn waste into water

Graham Clayton on a course with a fresh approach to technology

WATER

Because of its rural Bedfordshire location, Cranfield University has its own sewage farm dealing with the output from a community of about 1,200. Here, students can get first-hand experience of efficient treatment.

In October last year, the university set up one of the newer IGDS courses called Water and Waste Water Technology. Professor Tom Stephenson, director of the School of Water Sciences, says: "We are interested in process technologies for the treatment of water and waste water — technologies associated with the improvement of water quality. Anything from water for industrial use to water for a swimming pool."

Cranfield was already running a full-time course covering these technologies and so it had a clear insight into the industry's needs as well as valuable contacts. From these, it became clear that there was a change of emphasis taking place in an industry traditionally dominated by civil engineers. Professor Stephenson says: "There was a real need for people with process technology skills — chemical engineering-type skills."

The course, run jointly with University College London, is made up of 14 modules. It has a core of students from the water utilities such as Thames, Yorkshire and Anglian, water-only companies such as Essex and Suffolk Water as well as small, specialist process contractors such as Evonir. This year's course also has students from British Steel and the pharmaceutical company SmithKline Beecham, both very big users of water.

The course is split into three areas. There are two compulsory foundation modules and the delegates then choose five technology modules from seven, and three from five management modules.

Professor Stephenson emphasises the philosophy underlying the course. Traditionally the whole area is split into rigidly defined subjects such as drinking water treatment, advanced drinking water treatment and industrial effluent treatment. "We have tried to make our approach knowledge-based so we have a module called 'advanced chemical processes' and these could be for treating water for



Professor Tom Stephenson says: "There is a need for people with process technology skills"

a microchip factory, for drinking water, or for industrial effluent."

A very important aspect of all IGDS courses is providing practical experience of real

industrial problems. One of the modules will be run in co-operation with Thames Water and Professor Stephenson hopes it will take place at a large sewage works and a

large water works in London. The students will be on the sites for several days so they can first try to solve problems on paper and then go and see what the actual solution is.

Ringling all the industry changes

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

A WEEK does not go by without some aspect of the telecommunications industry appearing in the news. Stories range from the global ambitions of BT, through the latest advances in mobile phone technology to concern about child pornography on the Internet.

This makes an IGDS course for the industry essential and a challenge to organise. Professor John O'Reilly, who occupies the Chair of Telecommunications at University College London (UCL) has taken up the task with enthusiasm.

"Telecoms must be one of the most exciting sectors to work in," he says. "I tell people I feel privileged to work in it

because of that. There is a great deal of change, so keeping up with it is a major challenge. That is why this programme was needed above all else."

The course, Telecommunications for Industry, recruited its first delegates in October last year but its origins go back to the late Eighties when BT asked UCL to organise and run MSc courses at its Marlesham research laboratory. Like IGDS courses, these were modular and could be taken over several years while students continued their full-time work.

Although the IGDS course is derived from this, it is markedly different since it covers the whole industry. From the beginning of 1995, UCL began piloting several modules to get the format and emphasis right.

The course is run in partnership with a wide cross-section of industry: network operators such as BT, equipment suppliers such as Nortel and GPT, and cable companies which have telecommunications services. It is also in partnership with other London University colleges — Queen Mary College, Imperial and King's — because no one department has top-level expertise across the whole area.

Professor O'Reilly is keen to emphasise the important teaching role which industry offers. "Each module has an industrial monitor in addition to having a university manager," he says. "It is those two working together, pulling in expertise where they need it, who shape the content and emphasis of the individual modules to meet the needs of industry."

"Delegates are required to undertake projects which generally relate to a specific problem or need in their companies. Again, industry and academia work together."

Industry also contributes through the Industrial Management Committee, which was built up from those who originally shaped the teaching programme. The committee meets periodically to consider how this should change and develop.

The course has proved very popular and Professor O'Reilly says it is exceeding its recruitment targets by between 50 and 100 per cent.

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Topics covered include model fitting, calibration, design and analysis of experiments, multivariate techniques, quality and process control, communicating statistics, data smoothing and forecasting.

Eight one-week modules, some of which are elective, will be studied over a two-year period, after which each delegate will undertake an industry-based project. The programme normally lasts three years, starting in April.

Further details may be obtained from the Programme Director: Dr C James BSc PhD FSS, Department of Medical Statistics

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THE MITEL CHALLENGERS TROPHY

Sponsored section

Companies are seeing the benefit of sending their staff on testing exercises, says John Young

It's tough but builds teamwork

It was the Roman poet Juvenal who proclaimed the importance of a healthy mind in a healthy body. Centuries later the idea became central to the English public school ethos, with the proviso that team games in particular helped to promote initiative, leadership and responsibility.

Success in war, it was felt, depended upon the quality of the officers. The other ranks were seen as an amorphous mass, drilled into submission and bullied into obeying orders at all times.

Such attitudes lingered until well after the Second World War, but the modern Armed Services have long since realised that encouraging all ranks to develop their mental and physical abilities, and to operate as a team rather than a hierarchy, makes for a happier and more professional workforce.



Peter Bishop: "motivator"

But firms in "civvy street" — or most of them — have been slower to get the message. Despite a degree of acceptance that employees who spend evenings and weekends training with the Territorial Army often have something extra to offer, there is still a tendency to deride the service mentality as unsuited to the demands of late 20th century commerce.

In recent years, however, there has been a growing recognition that leadership, for all its imperial, public school connotations, is still an attribute to be encouraged and one that can bring a new dimension to business management. It has also become increasingly accepted that one of the best ways to stimulate employees, and to enable them to recognise their full potential, is to expose them to the sort of challenges, physical and mental, which they would not normally encounter in their day-to-day working lives.

Among the most obvious examples are round-the-world sailing races, in which many participants are sponsored by their employers and the boats bear company names and logos. Not all companies, however, are prepared to send their most valued staff off on extended sailing holidays. So there has been a proliferation of short courses, lasting only a few days, aimed at helping aspiring executives to unleash mental and physical skills they never knew they had. But, although the military influence is obvious, it would be wrong to assume that they are mere imitations of the programmes developed to train the Armed Services. Businessmen, for example,



Hard but fun: Steve Cram and Jenny Agutter join contestants in the Mitel Challengers Trophy — a four-day test of physical and mental stamina



are accustomed to a highly competitive environment, and consequently the sort of programmes devised for management training have a strong competitive element. The Mitel Challengers Trophy, which is claimed to be the foremost event of its kind, owes its inspiration to a Belgian businessman, Michel Malschaert.

The first Challengers Trophy was held in Spa, Belgium,

in 1986. Next year it will be the Ribble Valley, in Lancashire, on July 9-12. The event, expected to attract up to 100 teams, is spread over four days and is divided into eight or more stages, including one overnight exercise. Each company team consists of six employees, male and female, aged between 18 and 55, of whom four participate at any one time.

A senior executive is asked to take part on the final day.

They all have to pass a medical, although the organisers stress they do not need to be super-athletes and that only an average degree of fitness is required.

Participants can expect to cover up to 70 kilometres in four days, mainly on foot but also by bicycle and canoe. Since the accent is on brain as well as brawn, the distance covered depends considerably on their ability to read maps,

interpret instructions and plan the best routes.

Peter Bishop, managing director of Challenger UK, the event organisers, says that it requires competitors to make difficult team decisions on the run, or while canoeing, cycling, climbing rockfaces or map-reading their way out of forests. "The essence of the event is team spirit, the ability to make swift decisions under pressure, loyalty to fellow team members and a commitment to personal excellence," he says.

For all the efforts to avoid military overtones, it is not without significance that both Mr Bishop and Philip Pearce, the course organiser, are former officers in The Queen's Regiment. After leaving the Army in 1989, Mr Bishop started his own marketing company, Europac, which later expanded into public relations, utilising his close contacts with the Armed Services and the defence industry. Since his appointment to Challenger UK in 1994, he has made a point of avoiding what

he sees as the mistakes made in other countries of allowing the event to become too elitist, requiring near-professional standards of physical fitness.

The French equivalent, for example, involves an ascent of Mont Blanc, for which intensive special training is required.

"It was going the same way in this country," he recalls. "Unless you were a marathon runner or a fell walker, you didn't stand a chance."

"Since then I have tried to pull it back to the level of the ordinary person who is reasonably fit, and who can take part and have some fun along the way as well."

"It's not about getting people to do things they don't want to do, but I like to think I'm a good motivator as well as a good trainer."

His view is echoed by Sebastian Coe, Conservative MP and winner of two Olympic gold medals. He says: "This sort of competition exposes people to a physical challenge in the nicest possible way. They learn to cope with things quite outside their day-to-day experiences."

ORGANISING THE CONTEST

One of the first things that Peter Bishop did on being appointed managing director of Challenger UK was to recruit his former regimental colleague, Philip Pearce, to plan the course for the event. John Young writes.

Having spent his final years in the Army commanding a territorial unit, Mr Pearce had first-hand experience of providing physical and mental challenges for young people whose full-time occupations were in civilian life.

"The emphasis in all events of this sort is on teamwork, and my principal objective is to devise a course which will enable the participants to work in teams," says Mr Pearce.

"There are strong similarities with orienteering, but that can be an intensely individual thing. So we give the participants problems which they have to solve as they go and which they have to discuss among themselves."

Both he and Mr Bishop stress the competitive nature of the event. "They are up against the clock as well as against other teams. They are not just playing around with their friends."

Spread over four days, the contest is far more testing than a one-day outing at the end of which the participants can look forward to a hot bath and a stiff drink. Mr Pearce points out. Those taking part can get very tired and they find they have to rely on other members of their team to get through.

Although most of the course is on foot, he tries wherever possible to introduce climbs with ropes, river crossings and bicycle stages.

"We want the course to offer a physical and intellectual challenge," he says. "We try to make the competitors think all the time they are on the go."

Aside from the planning, the logistics involve managing a staff of more than 100 people, equipped with four-wheel-drive vehicles, minibuses, vans, crowd barriers, safety helmets, ropes, lifejackets, canoes, mountain bikes and medicines.

Accommodation and three meals a day need to be provided for up to 700 people. And that offers a formidable management challenge in itself.

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Besides the opposition, each four-person team will be facing a series of energy-sapping, mind-numbing outdoor challenges. Using maps, compasses, mountain bikes, ropes, canoes and their wits.

To qualify for entry each team member must have a

commitment to teamwork, communication, leadership and problem-solving. (A sense of humour also helps!) And when

they eventually finish they will be better equipped to contribute to their company, big or small. The Mitel Challengers

Trophy will take place between

9th and 12th July 1997 in the

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- 3 SHORTS MISSILE SYSTEMS
- 4 ORANGE PCS LTD
- 5 ICL GOLDRUSH
- 6 SEDGWICK PEAK PERFORMERS
- 7 ORANGE (BRISTOL)
- 8 LOMBARD NUMBER ONES
- 9 MITEL SEMICONDUCTOR
- 10 PITMANS PONIES (LLOYDS BANK PLC)
- 11 BT
- 12 TETRA TOPS (TETRA PAK UK LTD)
- 13 MITEL TELECOM
- 14 BT LABS ADVANCED NETWORKS
- 15 ASE
- 16 LILLEY-ERL WOOD
- 17 SHELL ETAP
- 18 MIDLAND ELECTRICITY plc
- 19 CARDIFF DRAGONS (CITY COUNCIL)
- 20 MOBIL ONE

Since 1990, Challenger Trophy Events have raised over £0.5million for their selected charities.

We are delighted to announce that this year's chosen charity is RNIB.

The funds raised by Challenger Teams go towards its Sunshine Fund for Blind Children which ensures that a blind child's education is the best possible by providing essential equipment for visually impaired children including specialist schooling, computer equipment, and transcription facilities to translate books into Braille.

We would like to thank all past teams in the Challengers event for their support. Please support this year's cause as generously as you can.



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THE MITEL CHALLENGERS TROPHY

Sponsored section

How brainpower won the day

It is not just brawn that can give teams an edge, says

Rodney Hobson

Although events such as the Mitel Challengers Trophy are seen primarily as tests of physical fitness, it was added brainpower that gave CT Bowring, the insurance broker, victory in the 1996 event.

Bowring had entered a team in five previous events and had managed second place one year, but in 1995 the team was nowhere in sight.

Geoffrey Maitland-Jones, the team captain, explains the transformation that gave victory to the magnificent seven who formed the Bowring Broncos this year: "We had a varied team. Two of us were good at brain teasers, something that had been lacking in previous years. We had always been good on the physical side and I had been trying to tell people you don't have to be a marathon man to take part."

Mr Maitland-Jones had taken part in three previous Mitel Challengers Trophies and had experience as team captain, but missed last year. He returned to the leader's role this year as the natural choice. He says: "It devolved to me because I had been in the Army and had experience in this kind of activity and in navigation. I did not think we had a chance of winning. Last year we did not do particularly well because it was not an experienced team and I would have been happy to come in the top ten this time."

Three of last year's team came back for more, but two members were new to the event. Although CT Bowring, which is part of Marsh & McLennan, the world's largest insurance broker, has 2,000 staff at its London office, the seven who took part this year were the only volunteers.

Dave Tookey, Bowring's team captain for the first two years and a veteran of six campaigns, says: "In the early days we had about a dozen volunteers who were whittled down to four men who took part. More recently it has been harder to get a team out. The reputation that you have to be a superman has deterred people. I am pretty active and the first couple



On form: Bowring contestants in the cross-country stretch of this year's event and, below, facing the challenge of the cycling circuit

of years were brutal, but the competition has moved on. The organisers have done a good job in moving on to other attributes.

"It is not at all incongruous for an insurance broker to be taking part in this kind of event. You cannot relate challenges to any particular business. Not many people in any walk of life go running round woods at night."

CT Bowring gave its support from the start. It pays for entry to the competition and subsidises training, paying for accommodation for weekend sessions. Mr Tookey says: "You cannot do much rugged training in the City. In the early days we went to Wales, which was more in tune with the tough conditions in the actual competition. Now we can get away with the Home Counties."

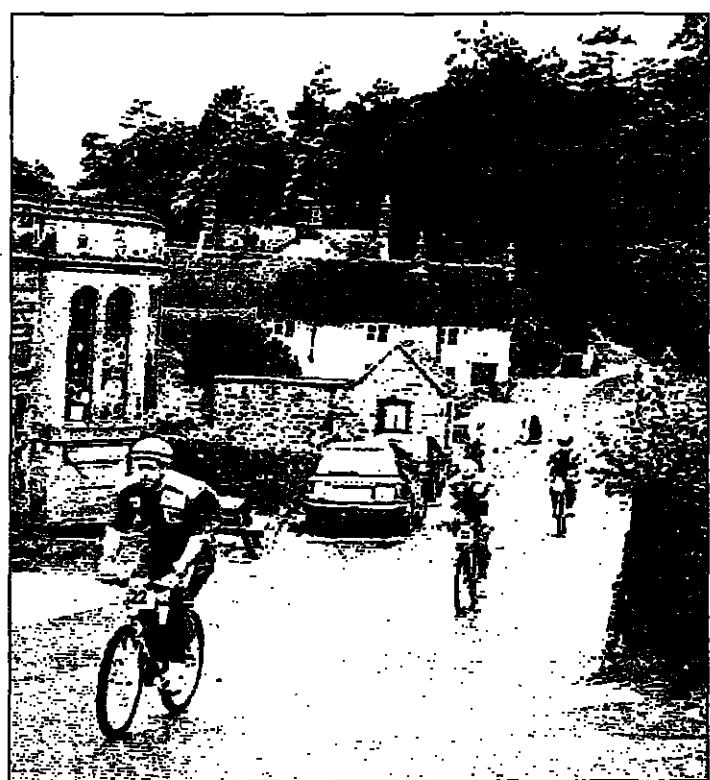
The Bowring team has kept fit, but not excessively so. It has been more a case of leading a sensible lifestyle. The training weekends have helped.

Mr Maitland-Jones says: "We go away for three training weekends in the lead-up to the competition and go for runs during the week. We try to produce our own Chal-

lenger-type stages where there will be some logic problems and map-reading and we make it physically demanding. This year we all clicked. We made a good start and we had our share of luck, but we seemed to do well all along. We did not have one bad stage, which is usually the problem."

One example of how a team can get a good start to a stage came when all the teams gathered in the grounds of a college for a mass start at 11.30pm. They were each given an envelope containing a mathematical crossword giving the location they had to get to. Mr Maitland-Jones had spotted a floodlight in one corner of the grounds, so the team made use of the light to read the instructions while others were struggling with torches.

The Bowring Broncos finally won by an impressive margin of 40 minutes. It was nearly a double triumph, for the CT Bowring women's team, which won the women's section last year, was pipped by two minutes from scoring a repeat win.



Fighting spirit that saved the company

Rodney Hobson reports on how Mitel practises the team ethic that it preaches

Teamwork has become the watchword of Mitel, the Canadian company that sponsors the Challengers Trophy. Alan Kirkham, managing director, says the principles that apply in the competition are put into practice at the company.

He says: "Mitel is very much a team-based organisation. What we are trying for is to prove that the sum of the parts is greater than the individual components."

"We believe that behavioural skills are just as important as the technical skills that employees bring to the company. Empowerment is the key to the way to run a business. We seek people who are willing to take the initiative."

Mr Kirkham says people taking part in the Challengers Trophy would not be able to cope with the physical and mental tests if they operated as individuals. The same principle applies, he believes, to business.

"People do need to understand the strengths that each member brings to the team," he says. "That was what appealed to us when we decided to sponsor the Trophy. The event encourages and develops team skills."

Mr Kirkham says contestants take back new skills to their companies. "It teaches people to work in groups. People are together for the first time. They have got to be open and honest, and to understand the hopes, fears and aspirations of each other."

He says the event blends mental and physical demands. "You have got to have a minimum level of physical fitness as the programme keeps people under fairly continuous pressure. It teaches people how to solve problems at a time of physical pressure."

Mitel has undergone a dramatic transformation from a loss-making

national organisation to a thriving international group. In the early Eighties it looked likely to fold, but a rescue operation kept it afloat. In 1986, British Telecom, newly privatised and looking to become an international player, bought a 51 per cent stake for £167 million.

Mitel produced computerised switchboards, and BT, looking for a way into manufacturing, saw that technology for telecommunications and computers was converging.

Private branch exchanges (PBXs) would therefore become key pieces of office equipment, handling data as well as telephone calls. Mitel was particularly strong in producing smaller PBXs, handling fewer than 100 lines.

Mitel was set up by two former BT technicians after a stint at Northern Telecom in Canada. Although the company returned a profit in the year to March 1989, its performance deteriorated again and, early in 1990, BT put its stake up for sale.

Such was the mess at Mitel that it took two and a half years to find a buyer. BT stood a loss of £116 million. But the removal of the uncertainty that had hung over the company while BT's stake was up for sale proved a turning point.

By mid-1993 sales were improving and Mitel was making its best profits for 11 years. The consortium of investors which had bought the company began to sell shares at a handsome profit.

Mr Kirkham says there is a new spirit at Mitel. "We run our own in-house Challengers Trophy and a large number of staff give up a weekend to take part. They choose to do it and they enjoy it, and derive great personal benefit from it."

"It is not all pressure and being pushed to the edge. I am at the event each year cheering everyone on enthusiastically."



Alan Kirkham: benefits

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So you can see it is no coincidence that Mitel sponsors the Challengers Trophy where team work is the key to success.

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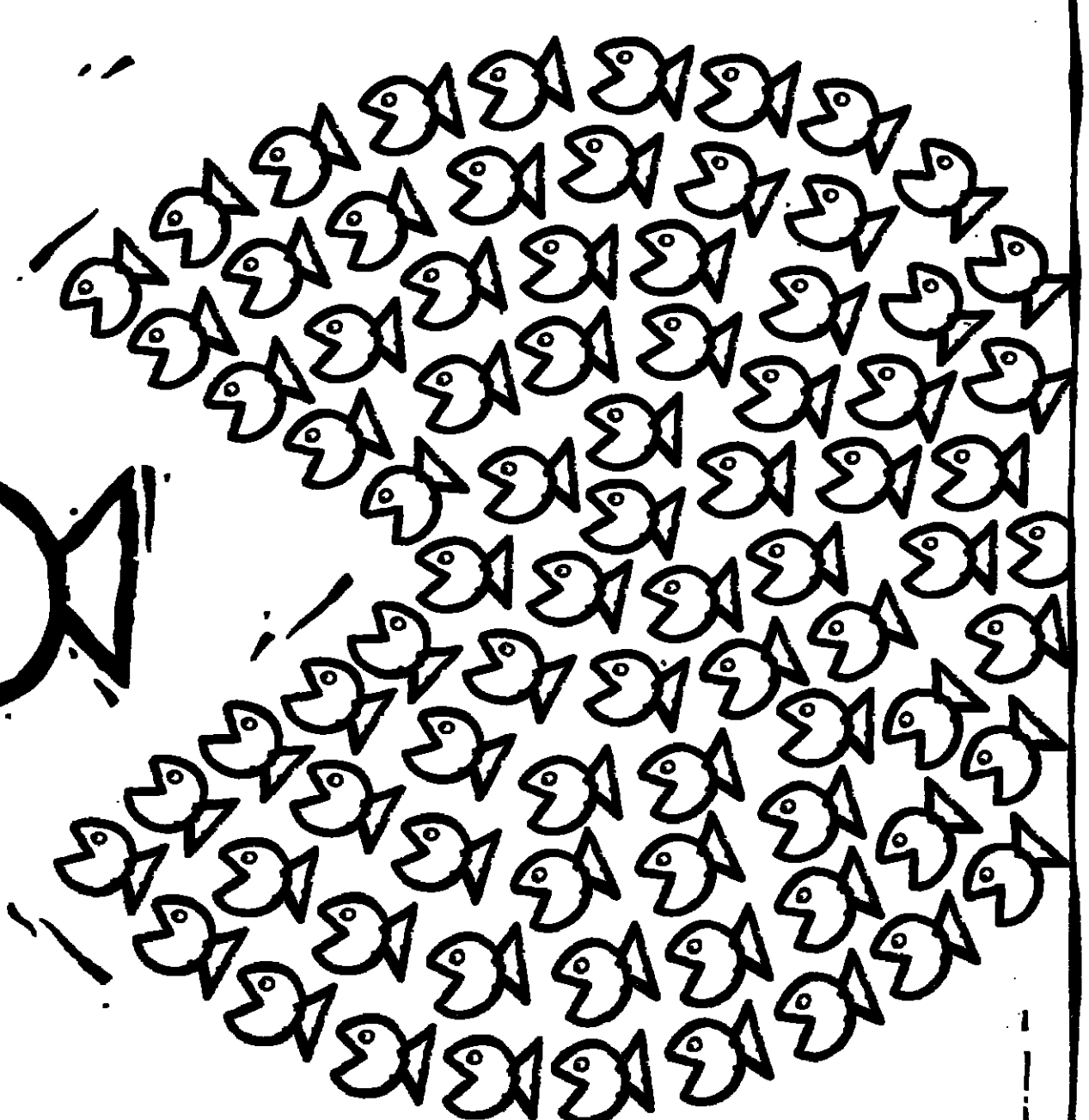


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Ancillary relief within court's discretion

J v T (formerly J)
Before Lord Justice Ward, Lord Justice Potter and Sir Brian Neill
[Judgment November 21]

A transsexual male, born a female, who, at the time of undergoing a form of marriage with a female, concealed his true gender from the registrar and the "wife" and knowingly made a false declaration that there was no legal hindrance to the marriage, committed the serious crime of perjury, but he was not in any event barred, on the ground of public policy, from pursuing a claim for ancillary relief following the grant of a decree of nullity because of the perjury.

Whether or not he was entitled to pursue his claim for ancillary relief was a matter for the court to decide in the exercise of its discretion under section 25(1) of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, in exercising that discretion it would be legitimate for the court to take account of public policy principles as a guide.

The Court of Appeal, by a majority, Lord Justice Ward concurring in the result on different grounds, so stated dissenting an appeal by the defendant from the decision of Mr Justice Holles dated January 25, 1996 that he be debarred from continuing his claim for ancillary relief against the plaintiff on the ground that it was contrary to public policy.

Mr Ben Emmerson for the defendant, Miss Suzanne Coates for the plaintiff.

SIR BRIAN NEILL said that the parties went through a marriage ceremony on July 7, 1977. On July 6, 1984 the plaintiff presented a petition seeking a decree of nullity on the ground that at the date of the marriage ceremony the parties were not respectively male and female.

A previous petition for divorce issued by the plaintiff had already been dismissed by consent on May 26, 1984. The nullity petition was undefended and a decree was granted. The defendant then applied for ancillary relief including an order for periodical payments and a property adjustment order.

The plaintiff challenged the right of the defendant to apply for ancillary relief.

On August 2, 1995, a preliminary issue arose as to whether, following the Court of Appeal's decision in *Whiston v Whiston* [1995] Fam 148, the defendant should be debarred from pursuing his claim for ancillary relief on the ground that his conduct was contrary to public policy.

It was alleged that the defendant was a transsexual male, who, at the time of undergoing a form of marriage with a female, concealed his true gender from the registrar and the "wife" and knowingly made a false declaration that there was no legal hindrance to the marriage, committed the serious crime of perjury, but he was not in any event barred, on the ground of public policy, from pursuing a claim for ancillary relief following the grant of a decree of nullity because of the perjury.

The case for the plaintiff could be shortly stated. It was alleged that the defendant was a transsexual male, who, at the time of undergoing a form of marriage with a female, concealed his true gender from the registrar and the "wife" and knowingly made a false declaration that there was no legal hindrance to the marriage, committed the serious crime of perjury, but he was not in any event barred, on the ground of public policy, from pursuing a claim for ancillary relief following the grant of a decree of nullity because of the perjury.

At the trial the judge examined in detail the defendant's state of mind as to his ability to contract a lawful marriage and also the state of the plaintiff's knowledge of the defendant's physical characteristics and status. On the former, the judge concluded, applying the criminal standard of proof, that "the defendant knew perfectly well that there was a lawful hindrance to his validly marrying the plaintiff."

He based his finding on the following line of reasoning: (a) That the defendant knew that in order to be free to marry he had to complete all three stages of the treatment needed to effect a change of sex, namely hormonal treatment, the removal of the female breasts and a phallic operation.

(b) That the defendant completed the first two stages of the treatment but did not complete the third stage by having an operation to have a false penis.

(c) That accordingly the defendant knew that he was not free to marry and had therefore committed perjury in signing the declaration that he was a man.

The judge had concluded that by making the false declaration that there was no lawful hindrance to the marriage the defendant had committed "a most serious offence."

On the issue as to the plaintiff's knowledge the judge's finding was not altogether clear. It was plain, however, that he was satisfied that it was not until long after the marriage ceremony that she became aware that the defendant was female.

It might well be that the judge accepted that she did not have that knowledge until the discovery of the birth certificate in May 1994. Moreover, it appeared from the judgment that the judge did not think that the plaintiff would have gone through the marriage ceremony had she known the defendant's true gender.

In his Lordship's view the appeal raised three questions: 1 Whether there was sufficient evidence to justify the finding that the defendant had made false declarations and had committed the crime of perjury.

2 Whether by application of the principles applied in *Whiston* or otherwise the defendant's claim for ancillary relief was barred in limine.

3 Whether, notwithstanding the fact that the defendant's claim was not barred in limine, it was bound to fail.

On the first of those questions, his Lordship agreed with the conclusions of Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Potter that there was sufficient evidence to justify the judge's conclusion that the defendant knowingly made the false declaration that there was no lawful hindrance to the marriage, in making that false declaration he deceived the registrar as well as the plaintiff as to his true gender.

The principal forms of ancillary relief available on grant of a decree of divorce or nullity were those set out in sections 23, 23A and 24 of the 1973 Act. In each of those sections it was made clear that the power of the court to grant relief was discretionary.

In section 25 of the 1973 Act were set out the matters to which the court was to have regard in deciding how to exercise its powers under sections 23 and 24.

In the present case, however, the judge decided, notwithstanding the discretionary nature of the power to grant ancillary relief, that the defendant was barred in limine from pursuing his application.

In reaching that conclusion he took account of the fact that, as he found, the defendant had committed a serious crime against the plaintiff and that in those circumstances the principle of public policy which was explained in

Whiston prevented the defendant's application proceeding.

The principles of public policy which were invoked by the judge and by the Court of Appeal in *Whiston* were based on the doctrine that the courts should refuse to assist a criminal to benefit from his crime at least in serious cases.

His Lordship's explanation for that approach was as follows: 1 In the relevant sections of the 1973 Act dealing with ancillary relief all decrees of nullity appeared to be treated in the same way. 2 Section 25 required the court when exercising its powers under sections 23 and 24 to take account of all the circumstances of the case. That requirement suggested that the scope for the trial of a preliminary issue was very limited.

3 The principle of public policy which could be invoked to bar a claim depended on the establishment of a serious crime by the defendant. In many cases the threshold of seriousness might involve an investigation of all the circumstances, including the effect on the other party and any mitigating factors which might reduce the degree of blame. In a case concerning a transsexual such an investigation might require detailed consideration of the medical treatment and advice which the applicant received over a period.

4 His Lordship had not been asked to decide in a case which involved the exercise of the court's discretion, it was necessary or desirable to carry out a preliminary inquiry to determine one aspect of an applicant's conduct before the general merits of the claim were investigated.

5 Although it was clear from the decision of the House of Lords in *Tinsley v Milligan* [1994] AC 360 that where considerations of public policy intervened to prevent the enforcement of rights claimed under an illegal contract the court was precluded from carrying out a balancing operation, the situation appeared to his Lordship to be different where the claimant had conferred a discretion on the court and had included a requirement that the court in exercising that discretion should consider all the circumstances of the case.

For those reasons his Lordship decided to decide the preliminary issue on the basis that the defendant was barred in limine from pursuing the claim because by signing the false declaration he had committed a serious crime. Nor would his Lordship bar him by the invocation of the doctrine of *ex turpi causa non oritur actio* without investigating all the circumstances of the case.

His Lordship was satisfied that it was legitimate to take account of principles of public policy as a guide to the exercise of the court's discretion. The fact that the applicant had been guilty of a serious crime and had practised a grave deception on the other party to the "marriage" were clearly relevant factors.

Turning to the facts, it was plain that the plaintiff was a very rich woman and that the defendant had nothing except assets given to him by the plaintiff and a possible equitable interest in the proceeds of the sale of her matrimonial home. One could therefore make all the necessary assumptions of hardship in favour of the defendant.

Nevertheless, his Lordship was satisfied that on the facts no case was made out for the exercise of his discretion, grant ancillary relief of the kind claimed by the defendant. It was at that stage that the conduct of the defendant at the time of the marriage, when judged by principles of public policy, brought the case within the principle of public policy which was explained in *Whiston*.

Accordingly, although his Lordship reached his conclusion by a different route from that of the judge, he was satisfied that it was correct to dismiss the claim.

Lord Justice Potter gave a judgment agreeing with Sir Brian Neill and Lord Justice Ward save for a judgment concurring in the result.

Solicitors: Tyndallwoods, Edgworths, Thomas Eggar Verrall Bowles, Horsham.

Proposals should be forwarded to the Department of the Marine before 12.00 noon on Monday, 9 December, 1996.

Further information and terms of reference can be obtained from:

Commercial Harbours Division
Department of the Marine
Leeson Lane
Dublin 2
Ireland

Tel: 353-1-678 5444 ext. 290
Fax: 353-1-601 8214

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Costs for unassisted party in children cases

In re O (a Minor) (Costs: Liability of Legal Aid Board)

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Leggatt
[Judgment November 12]

The procedure to be adopted in appeals in cases concerning children where the assisted party had been unsuccessful and the unassisted party sought costs against the board or under the wasted costs jurisdiction was set out by the Court of Appeal with dismissing in part an objection by the Legal Aid Board to an order for costs made against it at the conclusion of the local authority's successful appeal against an assisted party.

The judge, in granting continuing stay of proceedings with grandparents in care proceedings, suspended contact with the father. When the local authority challenged the orders on appeal, counsel for the grandparents, who were legally aided for the appeal, accepted that the judge's orders had been made without jurisdiction. The Court of Appeal held that neither order should have been made.

The local authority applied for costs, indicating that it was indifferent as to whether they were awarded against the board or against the grandparents' legal advisers under the wasted costs jurisdiction.

The court had indicated that an order would be made against the grandparents and would be made against the board, who under the standard terms of such an order made objection to it.

Mr Charles Howard for the board; Ms Deborah Eaton for the local authority.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS referred to section 18 of the Legal Aid Act 1988 and to the general rule that in the majority of civil proceedings the unsuccessful party had to pay the costs of the successful party.

He said that where the general rule applied, section 18 in the case of an appeal gave rise to little difficulty. The unsuccessful party who succeeded could usually recover from the board costs which he could not recover from the assisted party.

In cases involving children the position was complicated by the fact that the court did not attach the same significance to which party was successful, recognising that as its primary concern was the child's welfare it was often inappropriate to determine questions of costs by merely asking who had won: see *Keller v Keller* [1995] Fam 259, *Coughlin v Coughlin* [1992] Fam 40 and *Sutton v LBC v Davis* [1994] 1 WLR 1317.

Turning to the facts, it was plain that the plaintiff was a very rich woman and that the defendant had nothing except assets given to him by the plaintiff and a possible equitable interest in the proceeds of the sale of her matrimonial home. One could therefore make all the necessary assumptions of hardship in favour of the defendant.

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Accordingly, although his Lordship reached his conclusion by a different route from that of the judge, he was satisfied that it was correct to dismiss the claim.

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Solicitors: Tyndallwoods, Edgworths, Thomas Eggar Verrall Bowles, Horsham.

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The subsection was procedural in the sense that it only required the process of considering to take place. However, it would usually involve counsel for the party seeking the order and the assisted party to address the court on the subject if they wished to do so.

That was important to the board since if the decision was made that the assisted party should make a payment any sum paid by him would reduce the potential liability of the board.

His Lordship referred to section 18(4)(a) which required the court to decide whether it would make an order for costs against the board and thus to put on one side the fact that the assisted party was in receipt of legal aid.

If the court concluded that it would make an order then in the case of an appeal it would usually conclude, in the absence of some special circumstance, that it was just and equitable to do so. A local authority, because it was a public body was not, contrary to the board's submission, at a disadvantage as compared with any other litigant in seeking an order against the board.

As the board was not represented at the initial consideration of whether to make an order, it was desirable that lawyers representing the assisted party should be present at the hearing to draw to the court's attention any reason why an order should not be made against the board as the court would then have the facts of the case in mind and that could avoid the need for the board to make an objection after the order was made.

Wasted costs orders
His Lordship referred to section 51(6) and (7) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 and to the supplemental provisions in Order 62, rule 11 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, in particular rule 11(4), which required a legal representative to have a reasonable opportunity to show cause why a wasted costs order should not be made, and to the primary argument in favour of an order against the board: that the appeal should never have been contested.

Especially in a legal aid case, that argument was also available in support of a wasted costs order: that was the relevance to the question as to the approach to be adopted by the court when faced with a situation where it was possible that in addition or in lieu of an order against the board it should consider making a wasted costs order.

There was no provision for a provisional wasted costs order as there was for an order against the board, but the court could give a provisional indication if it considered it appropriate to make such an order and require that information to be conveyed to the board so as to put the board on notice of that possibility.

However, except where the position was clear that such an order was likely, the court should hesitate long before going further than that. The wasted costs jurisdiction could all too easily generate satellite litigation which was in itself extremely expensive. Furthermore, the court usually had the disadvantage that it was unaware of what communications had passed between the lawyer and his client and what could look at first sight as being a strong case could prove to be without foundation on the full facts becoming known.

In normal circumstances, it would not be just and equitable to make an order for the purposes of section 18(4)(a), if costs had been incurred in circumstances justifying making a wasted costs order.

However, the successful party was not concerned whether its costs were recovered from the legal advisers or the board. It would therefore be unreasonable to require the successful party to pursue an application for a wasted costs order where it was prima

facie entitled to an order against the board except in a clear case, since the legal advisers against whom the application was brought might themselves seek costs against the applicant if the application were unsuccessful.

In the ordinary case, the applicant for costs needed to do no more than draw the attention of the court to the fact that the case might be such that a wasted costs order might be made as well as or instead of an order against the board.

The court, when it made an order nisi for costs against the board could then direct that the board be informed that it was such a case. It would then be for the board to decide whether or not to object to the inclusion of an allegation of objection to a wasted costs order should be made.

If it did so, the legal advisers concerned would have to be notified so that they could be heard at the same time as the objection. The court would then be able to look at the costs issue in the round and make the appropriate orders.

For the future his Lordship summarised the course which he recommended could be adopted at the conclusion of appeals similar to the present:

1 The successful unassisted party should consider whether there were circumstances justifying seeking (a) an order for costs against the assisted party if that party was not legally aided or (b) a wasted costs order against that party's legal representatives.

If the circumstances did not exist no further action was required.

2 If circumstances could justify (a) above, such an application should be made.

3 If it were appropriate to apply for (b) above, that application should be made.

4 If the court considered either of its own motion or because of the application that it appeared to be so clear a case for making a wasted costs order that it would not be just and equitable to make an order nisi against the board, the court should adjourn the application against the board and proceed to take the steps necessary to establish that a wasted costs order were necessary.

If the court made that order in relation to all relevant costs there should ordinarily be no reason to proceed further with the application against the board.

5 If the application against the board was not adjourned: (a) the court should ascertain whether the requirements of section 18 were met and if so make any order against the legally aided party which was appropriate and, if justified, an order nisi against the board.

In addition if the court considered that there was a real possibility that a wasted costs order would be made it should direct that that should be drawn to the board's attention.

(b) The lawyers representing the legally aided party should regard it as their responsibility to draw to the court's attention any matters relevant in determining whether the requirements of section 18 had been met.

(c) If the board decided to object to an order it could raise as part of the objection any contention it wished to pursue that a liability for costs for which it might otherwise be responsible should be met by a wasted costs order and that could be considered as part of the objection to the order for costs against the board.

6 If an application against the board was adjourned pending the investigation of an application for a wasted costs order and no such order was made the application against the board should be restored and determined.

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Leggatt agreed.

Solicitors: Mr Roger Hamilton, Newcastle upon Tyne; Mr R. J. Humphries, Durham.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

SALTEND COGENERATION COMPANY

Notice of application for consent to construct and operate a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Station at Saltend within the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

Notice is hereby given that Saltend Cogeneration Company has applied under section 14 of the Electricity Act 1989, for the consent of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry to construct and operate a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power station at Saltend within the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, and for a direction under section 90(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

The CCGT power station will generate a nominal capacity of 1100 megawatts of power. Fuel input will be dependent upon choice of manufacturers unspecified but is likely to be between 1000 and 1200 megawatts.

A copy of the application and a copy of the Environmental Statement which describes the development in detail and present an analysis of the environmental impacts are available for inspection by members of the public during normal office hours at the following addresses:

East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Planning, Environment and
Development
County Hall
Beverly HU17 9BA

North Yorkshire Council
Planning Services
Rugby House
10-12, St. John's Street
Leeds LS1 2ER

Copy of the Environmental Statement and non technical summary may be obtained whilst stocks last from BP Chemicals Ltd in discretionary charge of 250 copies may be requested for the Environmental Statement by letter to Dr M. Jones at the address below.

Any objections should be made in writing to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Electricity Division, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET, within 21 days of the date of the notice of the application for consent to construct and operate the power station.

Dr M. Jones
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
Electricity Division
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET

Dr M. Jones
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
Electricity Division
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET

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London SW1H 0ET

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Applied Holographics, Field Group, Fiofax, FirstBus, JLI Group, Jupiter Geared Capital, Marling Industries, Merrydown, Quilligott, RM, Christian Salvessen, Sketchley, South Staffordshire Water, Trinity Care, Wynnstay Properties. Final: Abacus Polar, Ashbourne, ML Laboratories, National Home Loans. Economic statistics: EU foreign ministers meeting; US consumer affairs ministers meeting; US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills.

TOMORROW

Interims: Amberley Group, Hewlett-Packard, National Grid, Jarvis Hotels, Mountview Estates, National Grid, New London Capital, Read-It International, Severn Trent, Value Realisation, Finesse Anglo Irish Bank, Eldridge, Pope & Co. Economic statistics: Chancellor of Exchequer presents UK Budget; Bank of England to announce gilt auction details; US November consumer confidence; US Treasury announces allocation of short-term T-bills.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Amber Industrial, British Biotech (q2), Bristol United Press, Indian Hotels, Kewill Systems, Meyer International, Mid Kent Holdings, New London Capital, Northamber, Randfort Estates, Vendome Luxury Group. Final: Crabtree Group, Great Western Properties, Tate & Lyle, Wignmore Property Investment. Economic statistics: UK September world trade, October non-EU trade; US weekly jobless claims; US preliminary third quarter GDP; US October durable orders; US bond market closes early.

THURSDAY

Interims: BPB, Bristol United Press, British Gas (q3), Brockhampton Holdings, BSES, Colson Investments, Castings, CPL Aromas, Eldos, European Motor Holdings, Fortis (q3), Hampson Industries, Hogg Robinson, Johnson Matthey, ML Holdings, Neespend, Old English Pub, Southern Electric, Stagecoach, Sutcliffe Spelman, T Group, Trest, United Utilities, Videologic, VTR. Final: Centric, Edinburgh Income Trust, Marx & Overseas, Royal Bank of Scotland, Sanderson Electronics, Scottish Investment Trust. Economic statistics: UK October British Bankers Association monthly mortgage lending; US Thanksgiving public holiday; French q3 preliminary gross domestic product.

FRIDAY

Interims: Bournemouth & West Hampshire Water, Cantab Pharmaceuticals (q3), James Latham, Monks Investment Trust, TR Property Investment Trust, Yorkshire Water, Finesse, Fenchurch, Henderson Straits Investments, H Young Holdings. Economic statistics: UK October final M4; UK October consumer credit; US October personal income, expenditure.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

Tate & Lyle needs payout sweetener

TATE & LYLE: Only an increase in the final dividend of 7 per cent to 17.1p will sweeten the pill for shareholders when the group unveils full-year figures on Wednesday. NatWest Securities, the broker, expects a drop in pre-tax profits from £111.1 million to £78.5 million, with earnings per share down from 42.9p to 38.2p.

The setback will stem from the group's North American operations, where profits are likely to be down about 34 per cent at £13 million. Prices at Staley, its high fructose corn syrup producer, have collapsed as a result of capacity outstripping demand.

The only bright spot is likely to be sugar production, where prices have risen sharply because of poor beet crops and the introduction of anti-dumping legislation in Canada.

BRITISH GAS: A further loss is expected when the group unveils third-quarter figures on Thursday. Estimates pitch net losses at between £128 million and £150 million, compared with £180 million last time. Loss per share ranges from 5p to 3.4p. The third quarter is traditionally the group's quietest. The losses will certainly make little impression on brokers who want information about the progress of take-or-pay contracts and whether a demerger of the business is planned. They may also quiz the group on reports of a merger with Shell.

VENDOME: The strong pound and weakened Swiss franc are likely to play havoc with half-year figures from the luxury goods group when it unveils half-year figures on Wednesday. Profits will be ahead in terms of Swiss francs, but once converted into sterling the outcome is likely to be less buoyant, with Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, forecasting flat pre-tax profits of £122 million (£119 million). The weak Swiss franc will flatter operating margins but sales will be hit by a weak yen, which has affected the spending power of Japanese tourists in the Far East. Demand in Europe also remains depressed.

The second half is unlikely to show much scope for improvement and brokers have already downgraded their year-end numbers to about £265 million.

NATIONAL GRID: The group comes under the spotlight when



David Jefferies, National Grid chairman, reveals how he coped with tougher pricing guidelines

David Jefferies, the chairman, unveils half-year figures tomorrow. These will be the first results published since the regulator imposed his tough pricing proposals. They come into force next year, when the formula of RPI-X per cent is applied.

There is to be a 9 per cent increase in the payout to 4.45p. Profits at the pre-tax level should have grown from £278.9 million to £304 million, an increase of 9 per cent. Earnings growth is likely to be around 8 per cent, at 12.7p a share. Much of the improvement is expected to be achieved by increased efficiency and cost-cutting.

SOUTHERN ELECTRIC: The regulator's influence will also be detected in half-year figures from

the group on Thursday. Southern is the first of the regional electricity companies to report on the effects of the second distribution review. This time round, pre-tax profits are expected to be down from £127.8 million to £111.1 million, although the impact on profits of the second review, it is hoped, will be minimal. The figures are also likely to reflect the impact of the abortive bid for Southern Water. Even so, there should be scope for an increase in the payout of 12 per cent to 11.8p.

SEVERN TRENT: It may be too early for the group to decide its next course of action after the decision of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to block its bid for South West Water. But half-year figures tomorrow will

still attract plenty of attention, with pre-tax profits set to grow from £189 million to £211 million despite the burden of purchasing extra supplies to pump across its drought-stricken region.

One of the best performances should come from Biffa Waste Services. A strong balance sheet will enable the group to increase the payout by 11 per cent to 10.25p.

CHRISTIAN SALVESEN: Interim figures today may provide the group with one of the last opportunities to prove itself, with rival Hays still ready to pounce with a takeover bid. Pre-tax profits are expected to be up from £44.3 million to £47 million after a strong recovery in food services and a solid performance from Aggreko, which benefited from

this year's Olympic Games in Atlanta. The dividend is set to grow by 6 per cent to 3.7p. But brokers will be on the lookout for the possible demerger of Aggreko and the sale of the group's US logistics business.

UNITED UTILITIES: A bumper rise in half-year profits and dividends is expected when the newly merged business unveils interim figures on Thursday. After a heavy autumn disposal campaign, the group is expected to announce a leap in pre-tax profits from £167 million to £215 million. The dividend is also likely to be 34 per cent up at 12.4p, reflecting consolidation of the former special third payment. The real improvement should come in the second half, with analysts pencilling in £475 million for the year.

STAGECOACH: The fast growing bus and train operator will be moving into top gear when half-year figures are published on Thursday. Brokers are ready for a 73 per cent leap in pre-tax profits from £21.2 million to £36.6 million, while shareholders will be rewarded with a 43 per cent dividend rise to 3p. During the past year the group has acquired the Porterbrook train leasing business, Swobes and obtained the South West Trains franchise. This is where growth will be derived, with the group clearly favouring further rail franchise operations as its bus operations show signs of slowing.

FIRSTBUS: Interim figures from the rail and bus operator today should reveal the benefits of a heavy acquisition programme. Pre-tax profits will be up from £14.3 million to £24.4 million, providing scope for a 12 per cent rise in dividend to 1.8p. The group is now the country's biggest bus operator after the acquisitions of Great Manchester and Strathclyde. The rail operation is modest but expected to provide the springboard for strong long-term growth.

JOHNSON MATTHEY: After falling precious metals prices and a depressed electronics market in Europe, the group will have had a hard six months. Nevertheless, pre-tax profits should rise, by about £5 million to £52 million. The dividend will increase by 9 per cent to almost 5p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

City expects cagey Budget

The British economy will inevitably be dominated by the Budget tomorrow. The City is expecting a cautious package, with net tax cuts of less than £3 billion. A Reuter poll of 27 economists last week showed that, on average, net tax cuts of £2.25 billion are expected, with a 1p cut in the basic rate of income tax paid for with matching spending cuts.

Economists also believe that October's unexpectedly large £4.4 billion repayment of public borrowing means that the Chancellor will be able to cut his forecast for this year's public sector borrowing requirement from £26.9 billion to £26 billion, and the PSBR for 1997-98 from £23 billion to £21 billion.

After the Budget there will be few British statistics this week. On Wednesday, September figures for trade with the rest of the world, including the EU, are expected to show a deficit of £1.1 billion, compared with a shortfall in August of £584 million, according to the City consensus compiled by MMS International.

On the same day, October figures for Britain's trade with non-European Union countries is predicted to show a deficit of £765 million, compared with a trade gap of £851 million in September. On Friday, there are figures for consumer credit in October, expected to show that demand for credit continued to be strong — at about the levels seen in September.

In America, home sales and consumer confidence news are due today and tomorrow respectively, but the first real focus of the financial markets will be Wednesday's preliminary snapshot of third-quarter growth. Gross domestic product is expected to have grown by 2.2 per cent in the third quarter, representing a sharp slowdown from the 4.7 per cent growth of the second.

These are particularly important numbers as the markets try to judge whether there is any pressure for a rise in American interest rates. On the same day, durable goods orders are published, followed on Friday by personal income and spending data for October.

JANET BUSH

Sunday Times: Buy Babcock International, Granchester, Celtic FC, Hay & Robertson, Access Plus, Avondale, Full Circle. *Sunday Telegraph:* Buy Chiroscience, Hold Mid Kent Holdings, Sell West 175 Enterprises. *The Observer:* Buy Guinness, Northern Foods. *Independent on Sunday:* Buy Capital Radio, Fibernet, Hold PowerGen, Mail on Sunday, Buy Persona, Guinness, Sell Country Gardens, Widney.

Cowie venture shortlisted for Thameslink

By CLARE STEWART

GREAT LONDON Railways, a joint venture between Cowie, the quoted transport group, and the management of Thameslink Rail, has been shortlisted for the Thameslink rail franchise.

Thameslink, the service that

operates across central London connecting Bedford and Brighton, is one of the last regions to be privatised. Passenger revenue for the year to March totalled £76 million.

Virgin Rail Group and Go Ahead, the bus company based in Newcastle upon Tyne, which is bidding in

partnership with Via-GTI, a French transport group, have also been shortlisted. The fourth contender has yet to be revealed.

The shortlisted groups have to submit a final bid in January and a preferred bidder is likely to be announced in February. Transfer of the

service to the successful group is expected in March.

Cowie Group, which spans bus businesses and car dealerships, last month saw its takeover of British Bus referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. On Friday its shares rose 7.5p to 369.5p.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

PORTLY

(c) Otter's small son from Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in the Willows*. He went missing, and was found by Rat and Mole carelessly and bathetically asleep in the arms of the Great God Pan.

BLATANT BEAST

(a) In Spenser's *Fairie Queen*, (books V, VI) "a dreadful fiend of gods and men, ydrad"; the type of calumny and slander. He was born of Cerberus and Chimera, and had a hundred tongues and a sting. The word *blatant* seems to have been coined by Spenser. It is probably from the provincial word *blate* - to bellow.

MTURK

(b) The three naughty schoolboys in Kipling's *Stalky & Co* were Stalky (Lionel Charles Donisterville, later General), Beetle (Kipling himself) and M'Turk (Major George Charles Beresford, an Irish schoolfellow of Kipling at the United Services College, Westward Ho, Devon). "M'Turk" later went to India as a civil engineer and subsequently became a photographer and antique dealer in London.

TADPOLE AND TAPER

(a) These two sleazy characters are party wire-pullers, spin doctors and lobbyists in Disraeli's *Coningsby* and *Sybil*, the first two parts of a trilogy of which *Tancred* is the third. They show that in politics *plus ça change, plus c'est la même*.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qxd7! Rxd7 2 Rb6+ Kh7 3 Re4+ g6 4 Rxd7 Bxd6 5 Bxd6 Qxd6 (otherwise White will win easily on material) 6 Rxf7 checkmate. Black, in fact, resigned before being shown this.

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صباحنا من الامم

Lloyd's piles on pressure in fight with non-payers

By JON ASHWORTH

LLOYD'S of London will this week launch its toughest offensive yet, in the drive to recoup up to £500 million from recalcitrant names. Bankruptcy orders and charges over property are among weapons at the disposal of Lloyd's, which is intent on sending a clear signal to non-payers. The first cases are due in court by mid-December.

A stream of names have approached Lloyd's for discussions since the first writs were lodged at the High Court in October. Tony Gooda, the controversial underwriter, and Robin Kingsley, chairman of the Lime Street Agency, were among more than 50 names facing claims for more than £1 million each. Some 874 writs, relating to more than £200 million, have been issued, covering names in the UK, Canada and the US. Lloyd's said that at least 130

names have come forward asking for talks. They include Sally Noel, an outspoken critic of Lloyd's, who defiantly cut-up her writ, only to succumb to the conciliatory spirit of Lloyd's.

Philip Holden, the head of the Lloyd's financial recovery department, said that the number of writs issued was declining rapidly as names came forward. Lloyd's was originally seeking £500 million from 1,850 names, but the numbers have come down to about 1,300. This is in part because some of the names concerned are bankrupt or dead.

Mr Holden said: "A number of individuals are now breaking ranks from the various action groups and trying to settle late. They recognise that the fight is over."

Names who accepted the settlement offer stand to pay considerably less. Non-payers facing demands for £1 million would stand to pay as little as £100,000 under the settlement, thanks to the cushioning effect of debt credits. Mr Holden emphasised that the door remained open to late-comers.

Mr Holden has extended his term at Lloyd's for another six months to allow him to see the process through. He has been seconded from the law firm of Dibb Lupton Alsop for the past two years.

The first payments are expected soon under the income and housing support scheme, which provides financial assistance to names who accepted the settlement offer. Some 830 names have applied to join the scheme, which is designed to help them to keep their home and pay the bills. A single person stands to receive £11,600 a year, and married applicants could receive £17,600. The scheme was ratified by the Lloyd's council earlier this month.



Holden: fight is over

TUC backs top-up pensions

By ROBERT MILLER

THE TUC is today expected to support the Labour Party's proposals for a second-tier pension to top up the basic state payout.

John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, in his address to a TUC pensions conference in London, will unveil plans for a year-long investigation by the unions into the future of pensions and how "we can move towards our goal of ensuring that all workers have access to a decent second pension in addition to their basic state pension."

One idea floated last week by John Denham, Shadow Pensions Minister, was the possibility of a "stakeholder pension". Harriet Harman, Shadow Social Security Secretary, is expected to give more details of the stakeholder plans.

Mr Monks says: "Our investigation, which will be reported to next year's congress, will consider a wide range of issues and options available." These could include a special new National Savings scheme.



Colin Alton, the chief executive of PatientLine, demonstrates one of his company's television and telephone systems to Suzanne Robinson, a patient at Northwick Park Hospital, in Harrow, Middlesex. Mercury Private Equity,

the venture capital division of Mercury Asset Management, has invested £6.3 million in PatientLine, which supplies the systems for installation and rental within hospital wards. The systems are operated by smartcard.

Businessman branded copycat

By JON ASHWORTH

A COURT battle is looming over the activities of a Cheshire businessman who appears to have "cornered the market" in top brand names.

Richard Branson's Virgin Group is among companies taking action against Brandon Pyatt of Warrington, who has been linked with dozens of famous names, including Umbro, Nike and Coco Chanel.

Mr Pyatt won an injunction against Mr Pyatt, 41, after he advertised for agents to sell Virgin Jeans. The venture is unconnected with Virgin, which plans to launch its own range of jeans next year and wants a permanent block on the use of the name.

Records at Companies House show that Mr Pyatt is a current or former director of

more than 70 limited companies, including Newcastle United Sportswear, The Armani Jeans Company, Reebok Clothing Company, Hugo Boss and Coco Chanel.

He runs a company formation business, Plan B International, and says he was instructed to register up to 40 famous names by a client who then refused to pay him.

Pension funds switch into cash

By CLARE STEWART

UK pension funds are taking a more bearish stance on investments and switching more of their portfolios from equities to cash.

According to the latest quarterly survey from WM Company, a firm that analyses pension fund performance, funds have, over the first three quarters of 1996, increased cash holdings by £5.6 billion. The main source for this cash, says WM Company, is the sale of £6.9 billion of equities.

Between 1992 and 1996, the proportion of pension fund assets invested in equities has declined from 58 per cent to 52 per cent. Chris Boston, a director of WM, said: "What stands out this year is how much of the money raised from the sale of equities is being held in cash rather than being reinvested elsewhere."

WM estimated that there may be more than £10 billion held in cash by pension funds, "perhaps ready for reinvestment in UK equities when fund managers feel the time is right".

Analysis of the asset mix of pension funds shows that, at present, equities make up 52.4 per cent, down from 54.9 per cent last year. Also down are holdings of US equities, from 4.4 per cent in 1995 to 3.8 per cent at present.

The "safer havens" of cash and index-linked investments have drawn more business. Cash holdings have risen from 4 per cent to 5.2 per cent, and index-linked investments are up from 3 per cent to 4.8 per cent.

The change, says WM, indicates more bearish expectations rather than reaction to an election and possible change of government. "The prospect of a Labour government has already been built into current valuations," it says.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6810 (+0.0149)
German mark 2.5254 (+0.0124)
Exchange index 92.5 (+0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share 2810.5 (+34.7)
FTSE 100 4018.7 (+60.5)
New York Dow Jones 6471.76 (+123.73)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 21216.11 (+286.38)

Open season for ITV franchises

Carlton's move will flush out bidders for TV companies, says Eric Reguly

Carlton's last-minute lunge at Westcountry Television has set the stage for a bid battle for remaining ITV franchises.

Carlton, where Michael Green is chairman, surprised United News & Media on Friday by agreeing to pay £85 million in cash for Westcountry, the privately held ITV company in Devon and Cornwall. Lord Hollick, the United chairman, was confident that United's £80 million offer was high enough to secure the deal.

The fierce competition for Westcountry — Carlton and United were two of four bidders — provides a strong indication that ITV companies, regardless of their size and performance, have become hot properties. The new Broadcasting Act triggered the takeover frenzy by scrapping the two-licence ownership limit. TV companies can now own as many franchises as they like as long as the total portfolio does not exceed 15 per cent of the national audience.

The next moves will see Carlton, Granada and United, the biggest ITV companies, attempt to consolidate their positions by snapping up the independent operators. But there may be some surprises. The Barclay brothers, who own The Scotsman and the European newspapers, are thought to be keen to move into television.

The remaining takeover

long-term investors. In City slang, their holdings are thought to be "loose".

The Mirror may be willing to sell its Scottish Television stake because, under the Broadcasting Act, newspaper groups with more than 20 per cent of the national circulation cannot boost their TV holdings. The Mirror, with about 23 per cent of newspaper circulation, would have to sell one or two of its papers to get below the 20 per cent level.

Flextech may be willing to its Scottish Television stake simply because it needs the money. Flextech recently signed a joint venture with the BBC to launch a series of BBC-themed subscription channels. Developing and promoting them will cost Flextech an estimated £150-£200 million. It has about £40 million in cash and could fund the rest by selling its Scottish Television holding. At current market prices, that stake is worth about £150 million.

The takeover plays in the rest of the sector will be more predictable. United owns 20 per cent of HTV, the ITV company in the West of England and Wales, and probably will buy the rest. Granada owns 27 per cent of Yorkshire Tyne Tees TV, making it all but impossible for a rival to buy it, and if Scottish Television manages to retain its independence, it is expected to buy Grampian Television in the North of Scotland.



Green: surprise move

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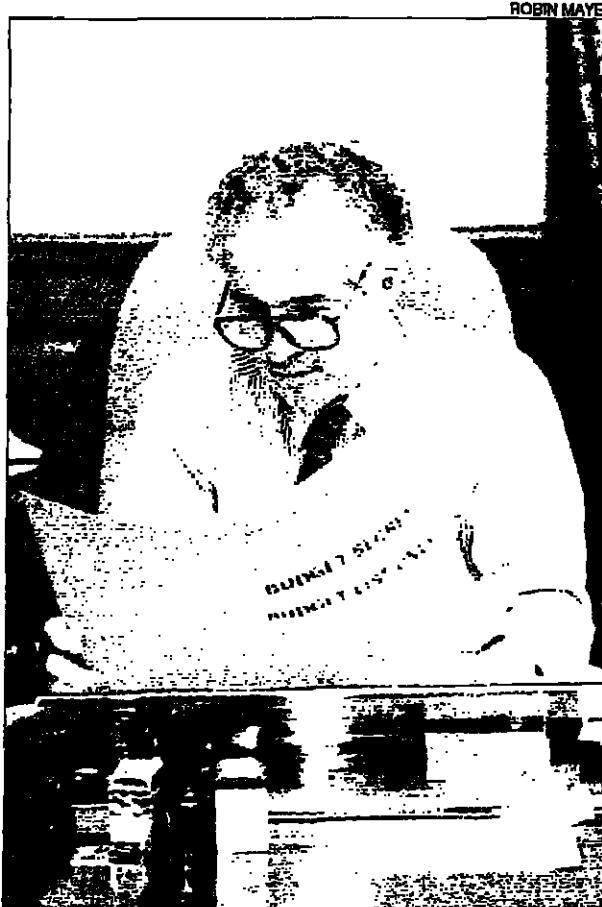
Man taxed with the task of ensuring a workable Budget

The Chancellor takes centre stage tomorrow when he delivers the Budget but the Red Book setting out public expenditure is presented to Parliament in the name of the Financial Secretary, Michael Jack. He has been in the job for the past year. He is responsible for taxes and must ensure any change proposed in the Budget will work. His task is also to pilot the Finance Bill through the Commons.

Beyond Westminster and the Treasury, Mr Jack is relatively unknown. He does not court publicity and is more concerned with paying attention to detail than soundbites. In every government job he has held, he has been over-looked with paper and detail from junior posts at Agriculture, Social Security and the Home Office to the latest Treasury portfolio, which has one of the heaviest workloads for a middle rank minister.

His colleagues on the Tory benches recognise him as a hard-working minister who keeps his head down. It was all the more surprising, therefore, that he played such a vigorous role in John Major's leadership campaign last year. In recent weeks Mr Jack has been in strict Budget purdah. His office is strewn with papers marked "secret" containing drafts of the Budget and future forecasts. He has been living and breathing every nuance of every detail. "An enormous amount of my time is making sure the system will work properly. I spend most of my days dealing with the nitty gritty. You can say lots of things to grab headlines but you become the whipping boy if things go wrong."

He gets on well with Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and has worked for him before at the Home Office. Mr Jack is a Northerner who attended Bradford Grammar School and learnt the tricks of the retail trade on the shop floor of Marks & Spencer, where he had politely refused to exchange tatty clothing that women would insist had been worn only once. This taught him patience. Precise attention to detail came later when he ran multimillion-pound bud-



Tight grip: Ian Jack must know the Red Book's every word

gets for fresh produce. Mr Jack, who went on to become PA to Sir Derek Rayner, said: "Gordon Brown tells us he was brought up in a family with business experience. But I would like to say there is no substitute for sitting behind a desk and making decisions. I am not saying everyone should have that experience but it does give you some feel for how things will go down, whether it's on tax or the

Private Finance Initiative. I try to think what my reactions would be if I were back behind one of those desks." When he introduced self-assessment of tax he insisted the public should have its say. He recalls being shown a tax return on the back of an envelope by a taxi driver. This prompted him to instruct officials to make their system simpler.

A family man with two teenage sons, he is conscious of the difficulties of balancing the books at home. He has a mortgage, drives a Land Rover Discovery and enjoys the odd pint of beer, glass of whisky or wine. "We do understand what the man in the street faces in the pressures of balancing a domestic budget. All the Budget factors affect me as much as anyone else," Alison, his wife, who teaches children with learning difficulties, has become a vital link with views in his Fylde constituency.

He is a staunch supporter of the Private Finance Initiative and keen to encourage the private sector to play a greater role in public sector projects. This year the Red Book will give for the first time each department's PFI commitments. He lamented the fiasco of the British Library project. "If that had been constructed under PFI we would never have had the huge overspend. Private companies would have had to stick clearly to very clear specifications drawn up by the Government." He ignored the spat of Budget leaks yesterday and instead donned his wellingtons to tend his vegetables. He said: "I prefer to concentrate on my leaks here."

VALERIE ELLIOTT

Income tax cuts 'no help to poor'

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

INCOME tax cuts are most lucrative for high-income households and offer no benefit to the lowest paid, according to a new study from the University of Cambridge Department of Applied Economics.

The paper, by Holly Sutherland, finds that a cut in the standard rate of income tax is the most beneficial measure for the well-off. A 1p cut in the basic rate is the most widely expected measure in the Budget tomorrow.

More than 30 per cent of the benefit of

a cut in the standard rate would go to 10 per cent of households with the highest incomes and 89 per cent of the benefit would go to those in the top half of income distribution. The poorest 30 per cent of households would receive less than 3 per cent of the benefit of a cut in the standard rate.

Cutting the Government's current 20 per cent lower rate of tax or increasing the single personal allowance would help those on low incomes a little more

than a cut in the standard rate. In either case, about 7 per cent of the benefit would go to the poorest 30 per cent of households.

Ms Sutherland says that the Budget measure that would best target resources to households with children, particularly those on low incomes, would be an increase in child benefit. The bottom 30 per cent of households would receive 21 per cent of the benefit, with the top 30 per cent receiving about the same proportion.

Capitalisation poised to top £5bn

THE Alternative Investment Market's capitalisation is poised to break through £5 billion mark this week, helped by five new issues which should add a further £50 million to the value of the junior exchange.

It stood just £18 million shy of the watermark last week, buoyed by successful floatations of Snakeboard, a skateboard company, and Exeter Investments, the asset management-secretarial services company.

This week marks the beginning of what promises to be a pre-Christmas rush to AIM, according to traders at Winterflood Securities.

Access Pios, the marketing company, joins AIM today, at £12.7 million. On Wednesday, Charterhouse Communications joins with a £5 million market capitalisation. Recycling Services, which specialises in metal recovery, joins AIM on Thursday at £14 million. It has raised £4 million from the float, which it will use to help finance its acquisition of GP Batteries.

Future Integrated, which sells and installs phone systems, is also joining on Thursday at £12 million. On Friday, Kern River joins. It has just bought the rights to manage 20 US oilfields for £4.5 million. While trading was strong



Reality was a fall for Trocadero

last week, the FT-SE AIM index lost 4.1 points to close at 1023.90. This was mostly the work of Trocadero, AIM's largest stock, which fell 9p to 44p, wiping £44.7 million from the market's value. Analysts blame doubts over the viability of the company's multi-million pound Sega World development in Piccadilly Circus.

Shares of Ask Central, the pizza chain, gained 42p over the week, closing at 135p after it raised £1.25 million from a placing. It is being

likened more to Pizza Express, whose shares have almost trebled over the past year, but comes on a much cheaper rating.

Shares of Celtic, the Glasgow football club, closed £30 stronger at £225 on reports that revenues from pay-view television could make a stronger contribution to its profits.

Freepages, the rival to BT's Talking Pages, finished 4p up at 45p on talk that it may seek a Nasdaq listing.

Shares of Rushmore, the printing group, were suspended on Friday, after a request by the London Stock Exchange, as its accounts size up its year-end losses. While it forecast a pre-tax profit of £97,000 when it joined AIM last December, it now admits that losses will be in excess of £100,000.

Neill Clerk Capital, which brought Rushmore to the market, said on Friday that it intends to slow down on the number of firms it introduces to AIM. It advises 28 — one in every eight shares on the market. Its retreat will be welcomed by those who wish to see the market divided more evenly between its 60 nominated advisers.

FRASER NELSON

1996	High	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price	Wtdy	Yld	P/E	1996	High	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price	Wtdy	Yld	P/E
150%	132	128	14.50 AFA Systems	145p				3	2	0.25 Just Group Wts	2				
138%	109	107	19.70 AMCO Corp	138p		4.5	10.3	125	82p	39.30 La Seta	93p				
119%	87	83	23.10 AND Int Pub	111p	-			180	127	44.40 La Seta	132p				
118	18	15	4.50 Abacus Recruit	84p			24.1	180	137	28.20 Lancashire En	155p		3.2	14.2	
15	14	13	18.30 Abacus Rec P/P	84p				323	210	19.80 Lawrence	322p		2.7	16.1	
161	83p	82p	15.30 Active Imaging	39p	+ 3			3750	2550	59.80 Lawrie Group	3150		2.8	16.0	
202	123	120	30.20 A de Gruy	20p	+ 3	3.8	15.4	297	255	48.90 Le Riches Srs	295p	- 2	2.8	16.0	
20%	7	6	12.60 African Gold	12p			26.0	17	12	0.80 Life Numbers	7p				
85%	68	64	34.80 Airtech	76p	- 3p			9	2	0.24 Life Numbers Wts	7p				
28	11	10	10.30 Albemarle & Bd	27p		1.1	14.9	79p	67p	25.30 Lohas Road	70p		2.7	8.9	
58	32	30	6.48 Alzyme	7p				18p	11p	3.50 Lon & Edm Publ	11p				
24	4	3	3.51 Alpha Altron	4p				95	85	0.86 London Asia Pz	85p				
45	38	36	46.40 Am St Brewery	46p		5.1	10.8	70	55	1.75 London Town	70p	- 2p	1.3	28.8	
105	68	65	5.07 Am St Cy Pl	102p		7.9		357	192p	38.30 Lorien Grp	34p				
121	48	45	58.40 Antonov	8p	+ 1p			3p	3p	6.05 Lotterking	3p				
9	7	6	1.78 Aron Props	7p			56.1	1p	1p	0.17 Lotterking Wts	1p				
81	29p	28p	26.40 Astoria	30p	+ 4p			160	21p	13.00 Magnum Power	28p	- 6p			
141	68	65	21.80 Ast Central	135p	+ 18			222p	167p	28.10 Majestic Wns	220p		3.2	16.9	
64%	55	51	1.16 Athletey Trust	64p				25	12p	7.47 Mark & Merc S	12p				
149%	123	110	41.10 BATTM Adv Comms	132p				135	55	7.26 Marine & Merc S	60p	- 11p			
68	39p	37p	11.50 Baxton Health	58p	- 1			125	107	2.51 Matrix Hiltone	110p		2.2		
7%	1	0	11.10 Baxford	7p				12p	11p	1.14 Matrix Hiltone	11p				
4%	4	3	7.55 Bechtel	4p			13.2	117	92	57.40 Megamedia	98p			55.3	
46	37p	33p	3.33 Belcan	37p				104	79	1.00 Megamedia Wts	91p	- 30	4.8	12.4	
150	140	130	1.01 Bessness Linc	147p		3.8	9.4	475	27p	4.71 Nelsa	67p				
70	70	68	0.34 Bown Linc Cy Pl	70p				55	18p	37.80 Memory Comp	62p	+ 1p			
70	41	37	7.37 Brantford Hlps	42p	- 2			43	16	0.36 Meteor Tech Wts	18p	+ 1p			
107	87	83	3.73 Br Blackstock	88p		2.1	27.3	22	16	4.50 Mastromade	20p				
535	240	230	59.70 Brockbank	487p	+ 12p			546	82p	20.90 Mayday	27p		1.5	22.6	
137%	116	110	14.60 CA Counts Hlps	137p	+ 7p	0.7	18.5	275	156	20.90 Mayday	32p	+ 12p	1.5	22.6	
110	109p	108p	0.12 CCI Founder Sds	109p				200	67p	6.97 Moorcasel	32p	- 8		19.2	
140%	116	112	1.12 CCI Hlps	140p				173p	147p	35.00 Mulberry Group	176p	+ 3p			
213	95	90	5.03 Cde Inns	176p	+ 6	1.7	13.5	89	26p	11.70 Multimedia	40p				
75	55	52	8.21 Caledonian Tst	67p			8.2	19	17	1.25 NECA	17p	- 1			
98	68	64	14.20 Cardcast	87p	+ 12	0.7	19.8	340	285	21.70 NMF Grp	285p		3.5	12.6	
48	27p	26p	17.20 Card Cast	38p	+ 6p			1470	117p	14.70 NWF Wns	200p		4.3	8.2	
100	89p	87p	9.07 Carlsberg Ship	89p		1.4	8.5	70	53	1.31 NWF Wns Pzps	200p		2.0	28.4	
72	48	45	3.01 Cassidy Bros	55p	+ 3	6.8	9.9	360	300	8.47 Neil Clark	330p		3.1	11.8	
57p	41	38	2.46 Cavendish W	58p		3.3	27.0	470	200	9.91 Neilson Cobbold	330p		2.1	16.5	
27	16	15	6.08 Celebrated Group	18p		1.9	16.0	170p	118	53.00 Network Tech	170p	+ 101			
133%	650	620	65.20 Celtic	620p	+ 3000			107p	11p	53.00 Network Tech	170p	+ 101			
2275	6450	6200	65.20 Celtic Pl C/S	620p	+ 3000			80p	63	1.56 Norfomes	37p			50.8	
1275	1400	1300	15.70 CI Commes(W)	116p		3.0	13.6	75	32p	4.30 Ntn Pzps	37p				
215	37p	35p	4.00 Clorix	116p				3	3	0.12 Ntn Pzps Wts	37p				
125%	59	55	155.00 Chelsea Village	115p	- 4			117p	110p	46.60 Norfomes	117p	+ 4	4.0		
225	120	115	9.96 Chemical Design	153p	- 7		24.4	180	85p	31.30 Old English Pub	176p	+ 2	1.0	55.4	
194%	173	168	21.00 Circle Comms	133p	+ 3p			136	84	12.80 Omelette	108p		1.3	16.8	
160%	110	105	0.99 Clon Homes	110p		4.5	14.1	337p	111p	3.89 Omelette	108p				
110	110	109	7.38 ClubPartners	173p			72.7	123	66	21.50 Optimal Care	108p				
310	110	105	7.38 ClubPartners	173p				107p	11p	29.50 Pacific Media	170p				
510	485	475	11.80 Com de Pz Pl	485p	- 20	3.2		140p	17p	17.70 Pan Andean Res	40p	+ 3p			
21	15	14	8.94 Com de Pz Pl	485p				220	18p	5.26 Pan Andean Res	220p		4.5	16.0	
100	85	80	0.24 Com Tech A Pz Pl	95p				18	1p	1.31 Pan Andean Res	220p				
125	115	110	0.19 Com Tech B Pz Pl	95p				106	77p	12.00 Personal No Co	77p	- 2p			
125	115	110	0.84 Com Tech Rd Pz Pl	125p				360	292p	103.80 Pz City	427p	- 30p			
225	215	210	0.84 Com Tech Rd Pz Pl	125p				337p	100	59.40 Philippine Gd	157p				
44	37	35	8.14 Constair Int	37p		6.8	9.4	184	107	27.70 Polymers Plums	3p				
171%	58	55	30.80 Country Gdns	167p	+ 10	10	17.2	4	3	6.55 Pzps Foods	3p				
120%	68	64	4.20 Cully Gdns Pl	114p	+ 2	5.8		2	1	0.33 Pzps Foods Wts	1p				
100	42p	40p	15.30 Cyns Int	42p				600	40p	8.57 Preston Nth En	585p				
345	190	180	4.48 Crown Englewood	280p		5.4	7.2	105	100p	16.40 Primary Hlth Pr	102p				
63	37p	35p	17.50 Crown Products	37p	- 2p			420	158p	77.70 Prism Rail	420p	+ 3p			
502%	152	140	39.00 DBS Management	485p	+ 60	3.8	10.5	3	2	0.96 R Fraser Ast Man	2p	- 2p	0.2		
30%	28p	26p	1.42 Deloitte Ints	77p	- 3p	8.4	8.5	74p	37	154.00 Rancho Ety	75p	- 2p	2.1	46.7	
950	860	840	107.50 Dawson Hlps	1925p	+ 12p	2.1	16.9	140	43	9.23 Reltec	132p				
194%	111	105	5.53 Dean Corp	111p		2.1	10.6	8	15	41.20 Rimmer Incoe	5p		5.5		
194%	111	105	5.53 Dean Corp	111p				18	16p	17.70 Rimmer Incoe	5p	- 1	2.6	21.2	
5	3	2	5.17 Dentmaster	162p		26.4		89p	80p	2.18 Rush Wns Wts	9p				
375	305	295	38.50 Dicom	375p	+ 2	0.4	26.4	4p	2	2.18 Rush Wns Wts	9p				
111	78	75	14.80 Digital Admin	100p				130	81	17.70 Rush Wns Wts	9p				
87%	80	75	13.50 Dinkel	72p	- 2			126	31	1.10 SCL Int	155p				
4%	2p	1p	2.89 Drings of Bath	3p				15	7p	3					
47	38p	35p	6.89 Easynet	47p	- 6			91	83	5.28 Solid State Sp	84p		4.2	13.9	
146	146	146	36.50 Elc Retail Sys	146p		1.4		595	520	136.60 Southern Hlps	566p	+ 1p	3.9	16.1	
200	137	130	24.70 Electrophysics	174p	- 1			75p	30	3.00 Vectis	70p		3.4	16.3	
118	61	57	15.10 Epc Multimedia	65p		0.4	13.1	77p	30	31.70 Shalwater	362p	+ 2p	2.8	15.4	
116	61	57	15.10 Epc Multimedia	65p				615	265	69.90 Shankford Rock	362p	+ 2p			
138	305	300	14.00 Eurasia Mining	305p	+ 4	2.2	13.9	297p	225	31.70 Shalwater	362p	+ 2p			
125	300	290	5.62 Euro Cities Int	300p				615	265	69.90 Shankford Rock	362p	+ 2p			
147%	325	340	3.40 Falcot	370p				120	40p	40.50 Shenor	146p	+ 5p	0.8		
53	41	38	2.38 Faywood	45p		1.1	9.0	142p	132p	6.85 Shillstone	33p	+ 40			
138	102p	100p	45.90 Fluorbet	123p	+ 3			183p	164	22.30 Sinclair Motors	183p	+ 5	3.5	11.7	
77%	77p	77p	3.25 Fluorbet	70p		2.7	9.3	5	3p	7.73 Sim Bus Serv	3p		0.9		
265	75	70	6.01 Fiat Pzps	75p			7.5	15	8p	0.29 Sim Bus Wts	1p				
183	13p	13p	2.74 Fiat Infor	13p	- 1p			3p	3p	26.80 Sinclair Motors	183p				
58	80p	80p	26.00 Fitness First	94p	+ 4		29.6	91	83	5.28 Solid State Sp	84p		4.2	13.9	
543	253	253	6.65 Fluor	253p		0.4	13.1	77p	30	31.70 Shalwater	362p	+ 2p			
45	35p	35p	1.74 FNR Hlps	35p	- 2			297p	225	31.70 Shalwater	362p	+ 2p			
113%	145	145	14.00 Furancon	128p	+ 4			615	265	69.90 Shankford Rock	362p	+ 2p			
144%	93	93	17.70 Fresenius	142p		2.4	10.1	365	120	40.50 Shenor	146p	+ 5p	0.8		
23	15	15	5.10 Gabriel Trust	12p				36p	47p	4.96 US Int'l Rch	33p	+ 40			
53	53	53	10.50 Gall Thomson Env	12p		11.2		34p	6	6.70 Shaw Farnell	107p		29.0		
19	19	19	34.90 Gaudin Trust	12p				15	7p	14.40 Shaw Farnell	107p				
109%	87p	87p	78.30 Gentland Wlts	90p	+ 4p			116	73	14.70 Tost	89p	+ 7p			
119%	71p	71p	95.70 Geo Int Media	97p	+ 1p			33p	33p	2.55 Tom Hostons	33p	- 12			
13	13	13	5.80 Gold Mines S&D	18p				36p	36p	21.20 Tradebank Wk	400p				
2	2	2	5.89 Gold Mines S&D Wts	11p				185	100	24.80 Tradepoint Pl	176p	+ 3	3.6	10.1	
15%	15p	15p	2.90 Greenhill	9p				180	160	5.13 Trinity Care Pl	176p	+ 3	3.6	10.1	
150	140	130	1.70 Grosvenor Ltd	15p		3.7	12.6	180	160	5.13 Trinity Care Pl	176p	+ 3	3.6	10.1	
180	160	160	34.40 H&M	180p				179p	44	218.70 UNO	167p	- 9			
41	9p	9p	0.97 H&M	9p				179p	44	218.70 UNO	167p	- 9			
88	58	58	5.82 H&M Pz	58p	+ 2p	6.0	7.6	49p	143	23.40 UNO	167p	- 9			
175	155	152	6.22 Hawesire	275p		2.6	17.0	49p	40	3.65 Unilever	377p		1.3	38.9	
555	180	180	9.90 Hawesire A	245p		2.9	15.1	255	147p	26.40 Voco	377p				

HSBC is largest UK firm as Gas takes fall

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

HSBC Holdings, the financial services group that owns Midland Bank, emerges as Britain's largest company in the 1997 edition of *The Times 1000*, which is published today.

But British Gas, ranked first in the previous edition, has been demoted to tenth place, reflecting the wide-ranging problems that have undermined the utility over the past year.

HSBC, formerly domiciled in Hong Kong but now based in London, takes first place in the list of the UK's top 1,000 companies, with capital employed of £24.8 billion. It was previously third.

In second place is Shell Transport and Trading, UK arm of the Royal Dutch-Shell oil and gas combine. With net assets of £21.9 billion, Shell is narrowly ahead of British Petroleum, which has capital employed of £21.2 billion.

The decline of British Gas follows a reduction in capital employed to £12.8 billion, from £24.6 billion previously. The company faces difficulties on a number of fronts.

No fewer than 21 of Britain's top 100 companies are in the financial sector, with Abbey National, Barclays, National Westminster and Halifax Building Society joining HSBC in the top ten.

America and Japan again dominate the list of the world's top 50 industrial companies. General Electric, of the US, is ranked first, with capital employed of \$84.16 billion.

Royal Dutch Shell is Europe's highest representative, ranked fifth, with capital employed of \$54.75 billion. Just two other companies with UK interests, BP and British Telecom, enter the top 50.

The Times 1000, 1997 edition, published by Times Books, 77-85 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JB. Price £40.00



Tony Hewitt hopes the market launch of Parkwood Holdings, which has £58 million in orders, will raise up to £6 million

Parkwood value put at £15m

By PAUL DURMAN

PARKWOOD HOLDINGS, a company that looks after parks and graveyards for local authorities, is forecasting that it will make just under £1 million this year as it prepares to join the stock market.

Pre-tax profits would have been higher at about £1.25 million but for losses on a forestry management business that Parkwood discontinued last July, one year after buying it. Parkwood is seeking damages from the vendor of Prospect Forestry.

Parkwood hopes to raise between £5-£6 million when it joins the full market next month. It is expected to command a value of up to £15 million. Tony Hewitt, Parkwood's chief executive, said it has forward orders of more than £58 million.

Government plans audit of UK educational science base

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government is to mount an audit of Britain's science base in a fresh attempt to improve the UK's economic competitiveness. The move follows a warning on the issue from leaders of one of Britain's best performing industries.

The science audit, driven initially by concern about the pharmaceutical industry in Britain, will be a central component of the Government's fourth annual White Paper on Competitiveness, which if the Conservatives win

the forthcoming general election, will be published next year by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister.

But before then, the Government has come under strong pressure rapidly to address mounting problems in Britain's science base after leaders of the pharmaceutical industry — widely regarded as one of the UK's best — made clear to ministers their concerns about its competitive future, primarily because of Government cuts in science provision.

In private talks with Mr Heseltine and his officials, a number of leading companies in the sector, such as Glaxo Wellcome, have already made clear their concerns that the UK's competitive advantage in areas such as pharmaceuticals is being eroded.

In a direct criticism of Treasury cuts, which will increase the opposition of some Treasury officials to the whole process of the competitiveness White Papers, industry leaders have attacked what

they see as the inadequate and declining provision made by the Government for universities' capital expenditure.

They say that this has led to the sharp deterioration of the quantity and quality of science equipment available in universities. This in turn leads to the science graduates the universities are producing — at a time when their number is falling anyway — being almost unfamiliar with technology, analytical tools and instruments used in research and

development by big companies, and thus a skills gap.

In the face of this, the fourth competitiveness White Paper will centre on a science audit, now being started by the Cabinet Office with the Department of Trade and Industry, just as a main feature of this year's competitiveness White Paper was an audit of Britain's skills, carried out by the CO with the Department for Education and Employment.

Ministers rode out the embarrassment of the skills audit, which showed Britain underperforming its main competitors significantly at different educational levels, and they are already bracing themselves for the science audit's likely findings that Britain's science base is slipping badly, posing a threat to an industrial sector seen as an international success area.

Ministers believe Britain still has a high scientific reputation, with the science audit likely to argue that the UK carries out more than 5 per cent of the world's scientific R&D and produces 8 per cent of its scientific publications.

AEA wins Chinese nuclear work

By PAUL DURMAN

AEA TECHNOLOGY, the recently privatised nuclear waste management company, is understood to have won a contract to advise on environmental safety at China's first nuclear power plant.

AEA experts are to train more than 100 Chinese managers and technicians in topics including waste man-

agement, decommissioning reactors and environmental risks of radiation.

The Chinese contract is one of three that AEA is expected to announce this week. The company is to take part in a project to deal with 56 million tonnes of nuclear and chemical waste at Hanford, in Washington State. It is said to be the largest

environmental clean-up done in the US, and AEA will be in a consortium led by Lockheed Martin Advanced Environmental Systems.

AEA is also taking over waste management for Smith-Kline Beecham's drug discovery laboratories in Harlow. The three-year contract is worth about £4 million.

China's first nuclear power plant, at Qinshan, came on line in 1992. AEA hopes that its contract with China's National Environmental Protection Agency will lead to more work as China opens 12 more plants over the next ten years.

AEA will today announce its first interim results since it floated in September.

How Chancellor has scope to deliver the goods tomorrow

Kenneth Clarke's Budget tomorrow looks set to be a beacon of political ingenuity amid the morass of Conservative infighting. The Chancellor faces a surprisingly easy task in trying to satisfy Tory backbenchers hungry for tax cuts while placating pundits demanding fiscal austerity to prevent further rises in interest rates.

The reason is that the Treasury's usual pre-Budget mis-information machine has been working hard to convince everyone that there is little room for manoeuvre. Last week's excellent October PSBR data almost gave the game away, but the Treasury

quickly issued gloomy briefings to dampen tax cut hopes. In reality, the Chancellor has probably carved himself space to deliver both a PSBR well below the £20 billion or so desired by the market, and tax cuts considerably greater than the 1p off basic rate leaked this month.

At the key EDX committee meeting on November 5, the spending ministers reportedly agreed to an expenditure Control Total of about £266.7 billion for the 1997/8 fiscal year. Although less than previously pencilled in, this would still represent a

rise of approaching £7 billion on the current year's plan. The press reports of this meeting gloomily concluded that tax cuts equivalent to 1p were all that would be possible.

A glance at data on government finances so far available for the current year, 1996/7, casts doubt on this conclusion.

Both revenues and underlying expenditure are running above plan, by about 2.5 per cent. Since the overshoot on both sides is similar, the PSBR itself looks broadly on target. However, the implication is that the leaked £266.7

billion Control Total for next year would represent an increase on this year's outlays of much less than £7 billion. In other words, the EDX committee may have agreed a squeeze on public spending that is tougher than press reports suggested.

Meanwhile, the revenue over-run gives a higher starting point for next year. Putting these figures together, Mr Clarke should be able to present a Budget with a PSBR of, say, about £18 billion, including tax cuts of some £4 billion. Market reaction would depend on whether this cut in borrowing were seen to be soundly based on a genuine spending squeeze. If it is viewed as credible, there should be a favourable response, with current expectations of rate increases being toned down.

The Budget is likely to take place amid growing speculation about a new rate cut by the Bundesbank. The latest German data shows the equivocal nature of the recovery, with bank lending and orders softening, and price inflation staying very low. At the same time, Stability Pact negotiations may well be on target for a deal at the Dublin summit next month. All this would help to reduce expectations of UK rate increases.

The bad news in all this is for UK corporates, already caught out by a rise in sterling. If the Budget has the broad shape outlined here, there will be a setback in the pound as UK rates are seen rising by less. However, gathering news of a German easing would soon offset this and might restore sterling to an upturn. The fundamental reason is that continental Europe, hastening to meet the Maastricht criteria, is set for a 1997 of big deficit cuts. Its policy mix is firmly set on tight fiscal, easy money. To hold sterling down, Mr Clarke would have to tighten at least as much as the Continent, if not more due to the stronger growth currently enjoyed by the UK. The PSBR figuring outlined above would, at best, be barely enough to do this.

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BUDGET BRAIN 52



Jack taxed
with a tough
Treasury task

BUSINESS

WEEK AHEAD 50

National Grid
comes under
the spotlight



MONDAY NOVEMBER 25 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

City expects Chancellor to limit Budget giveaway to £3bn

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, is expected to deliver a cautious Budget tomorrow, offering no more than a 1p cut in the standard rate of income tax and using October's bumper haul of tax receipts to announce cuts in his forecasts for public borrowing this year and next.

In spite of recent improvement in the public finances and the proximity of a general election, the City expects the net tax giveaway to be £3 billion or less. A Reuters poll of 27 London economists last week concluded that net tax cuts would be £2.25 billion, less than the £3.1 billion that Mr Clarke gave away last November.

The poll found that the City is expecting the overall fiscal stance to be neutral to cautious. A 1p cut in the basic rate to 22p in the pound is widely expected, but the

cost, of just under £2 billion, would be clawed back by cutting back spending.

The survey also showed that the City expects Mr Clarke to cut his forecast for the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) this year to £26 billion, from £26.9 billion in this year's summer forecast. It was also thought likely that he would be able to reduce his PSBR forecast for 1997-98 by £2 billion, to £21 billion.

Expectation of a cautious Budget has

been honed by Mr Clarke's insistence that a pre-election bonanza would not only be bad economics but bad politics. He believes there would be no political gain because voters are cynical about the Government's taxation record after it broke a 1992 promise not to raise taxes.

David Owen, of Kleinwort Benson, who forecasts maximum net tax cuts of £3 billion, said: "1992 marked a watershed in the politics of tax cuts. Relatively modest

tax cuts then did not prove sustainable. Large tax cuts today would be a less effective bribe than in the past."

The City's modest expectations also reflect its hope, because of the danger of inflation, that Mr Clarke will not be tempted to give the economy a fiscal boost when growth is clearly accelerating on the back of strengthening consumer demand.

Until recently, economists believed that the PSBR would probably overshoot the

Government's forecast of £26.9 billion this year, but this perception changed dramatically after October's PSBR figures, which showed a huge £4.4 billion repayment of borrowing. This has encouraged economists to argue that the PSBR will now be undershot this year.

Some believe that the PSBR could undershoot predictions quite dramatically, because of stronger economic growth and, therefore, tax revenues.

Cunard says it is for sale

THE head of Cunard admitted last night the luxury cruise line was for sale but two putative buyers appeared to rule themselves out. Anti-Panama, Cunard's chairman and chief executive, told *The Money Programme*, on BBC2, the firm, now owned by Kvaerner of Norway, would consider any serious offer.

However, Lord Jeffrey Sterling, chairman of P&O, the shipping group, said it was likely that Cunard's ageing fleet would have to be replaced. "I think my colleagues would look at it and say what can we actually build for ourselves, as opposed to taking over somebody else's fleet that we know would have to be replaced."

Salvesen hive-off

Christian Salvesen, which rejected a £1.2 billion takeover approach from Hays, the rival distribution company this year, is expected to announce the £400 million demerger of its Aggreko power supply business today. The company may promise shareholders a special dividend.

Science audit

THE Government will mount an audit of Britain's science base in a fresh attempt to improve UK economic competitiveness. The move follows a warning from the pharmaceutical industry about cuts in science provision in universities. Page 53

EU on brink of taking Italy back into ERM

By CHARLES BREMMER
IN BRUSSELS
AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

ITALY was last night on the verge of being re-admitted to the European exchange-rate mechanism as EU finance ministers finally moved close to agreeing the lira's value.

Failure to reach a compromise — which is unprecedented after a second day of talks — would have sent foreign exchange markets into turmoil and raised new doubts over the single currency project.

The sticking point had been the level at which the lira returned to the ERM. Italy, which left the ERM with Britain in 1992, yesterday modified its initial demand that the lira return at around 1,010 to the German mark in favour of a figure nearer 1,000.

However, even the reduced rate proved too low for most other European countries, with France, in particular, fearful that a weak lira would ensure a permanent advantage for Italian business.

Officials said that the other countries argued for a rate of between 950 and 980 lire to the mark. The lira closed on the foreign exchange markets at 997 to the mark on Friday.

Giorgio Napolitano, economist with Lehman Brothers in London, said that agreement would allow the lira to strengthen slightly in trading today as it moves towards its ERM parity rate. The knock-on effect on other currencies is likely to be muted, although the pound, which



Antonio Fazio, governor of Italy's central bank, arriving at a meeting of EU finance ministers in Brussels yesterday

closed at DM2.5254 on Friday, may weaken a little as traders move into the lira.

The Italians have been keen to rejoin the ERM to show their single currency credentials. The Maastricht treaty requires at least two years' membership of the ERM to qualify as a candidate for monetary union.

High stakes underlay the weekend of negotiations because Germany and its allies have strong qualms over seeing Italy, with its history of lax budgetary discipline, among

the first batch of EMU members when they are picked in less than 18 months. Rome has embarked on a tough austerity budget for next year that may let it squeeze through the Maastricht gate, but there is scepticism over its ability to maintain fiscal discipline.

The lira was forced out of the ERM after an assault by currency speculators in September 1992. The Italian Government was humiliated by its failure to protect the currency in spite of having negotiated an agreement to devalue the

lira by 7 per cent within the ERM and later raising interest rates to 15 per cent. Italy's central bank spent 30,000 billion lire of reserves and borrowed 27,000 billion lire from the Bundesbank and the Belgian central bank in a desperate attempt to prop up its currency.

The lira continued in freefall after leaving the ERM, reaching a low of 1,300 to the mark in 1995. However, it has since recovered strongly, enjoying an 8 per cent appreciation this year, taking it close to

1,000 to the mark — around the level at which it was first forced out of the ERM.

The lira is expected to be allowed to fluctuate within 15 per cent of other currencies after readmittance. The same terms apply to the present 11 members, except the German mark and the Dutch guilder, which have a 2.25 per cent range.

Britain, Sweden and Greece are outside the ERM.

William Rees-Mogg, page 24
Leading article, page 25

CrestCo may seek to raise extra cash to buy more time

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE board of CrestCo, the company responsible for the City's transfer to Crest, the troubled paperless trading system, meets today to consider calling for more cash from its 60 backers in order to extend the system's transition period beyond next April.

The company is believed to have already used most of a £35 million loan facility from Lloyds Bank, and has to decide if it can reschedule the transfer of 17 blue-chip shares, such as BT, Barclays and Lloyds, which had been due to transfer next month, within its present timetable and budget.

Many in the City say this is impossible and believe the transition period should be extended until next September to minimise the impact of dividends, rights issues and the building society conversions expected at the start of the new tax year.

A five-month extension would cost the stock exchange much more than the £18 million it has set aside for transferring shares from Talisman, the present system Crest is replacing. Talisman's expenses are largely fixed and the cost per transaction has risen as shares have moved to Crest.

Ian Saville, chief executive of CrestCo, denied an extension was inevitable: "It is unlikely that we can just add two weeks on at the end. The cost/benefit of rescheduling is different for big firms with large IT projects to do with EMU, order-matching and gifts trade lined up behind Crest, than it is for small firms coping with just Crest."

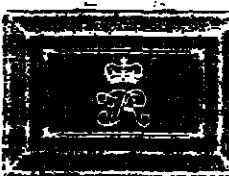
But Bob Howe, partner at Redmayne Bentley, a Leeds

broker that is a Crest shareholder, said: "Whatever the costs, it is better than making a disaster in UK settlement."

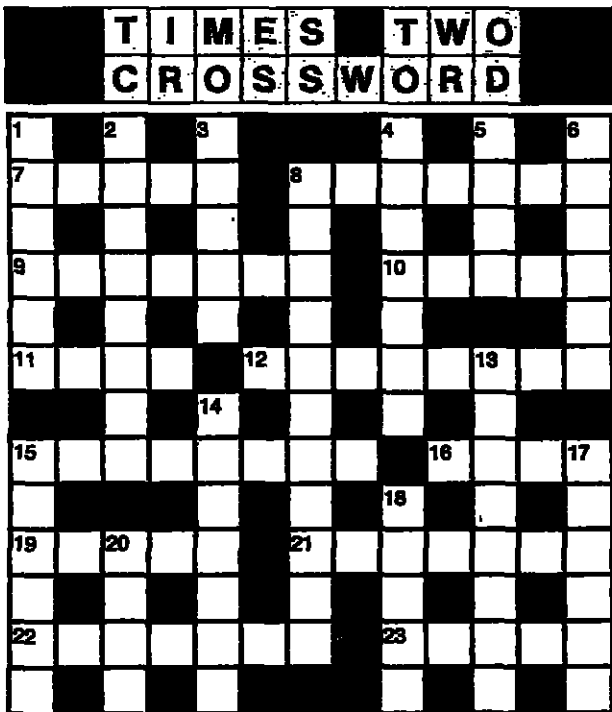
Mike Jones, technical services director at Capgem, said Crest should have been tested longer before going live. Crest's problems began a month ago when it was overwhelmed with demand from six big users, including BZW, the market-maker, and had to bar them temporarily from the system. Smaller brokers have become increasingly fearful that cash flow problems caused by delays in settling trades on Crest could put them out of business.

One private-client broker said: "Half of the market is in chaos because of Crest." This has raised the prospect of intervention by the Securities and Futures Authority.

IN BUSINESS
TOMORROW



See our Budget
checklist for a
comprehensive guide
to the Chancellor's
crucial speech



No 948

ACROSS

- 7 Bloodsucker; despicable person (5)
- 8 Natural issue-stimulating chemical (7)
- 9 Overeater (7)
- 10 Gentleman's gentleman (5)
- 11 US theater award (4)
- 12 Gelatin from seaweed (4-4)
- 15 Aloof; standing alone (8)
- 16 Haul; a bore (4)
- 19 Russian second home (5)
- 21 Payment to divorcee (7)
- 22 Tread roughly on (7)
- 23 Crack (puzzle) (5)

DOWN

- 1 Airforce unit; line of hurdles (6)
- 2 French Protestant (8)
- 3 Small-minded; sort of cash, of officer (5)
- 4 Valour (7)
- 5 Vessel for liquid; biased ball (4)
- 6 To chain, shackle (6)
- 8 Little thrown bomb (4,7)
- 13 Carved grotesque waterspout (8)
- 14 Disjointed (7)
- 15 Stand in (for) (2,4)
- 17 Hot spring (6)
- 18 Small sales booth (5)
- 20 Crustacean, may be caught by rowers (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 947

ACROSS: 1 Flap 3 Grateful 8 Besides 10 Grasp 11 Up to scratch 13 Repeat 15 Cirrus 17 Orchestra 20 Rhomb 21 Undergo 22 Monoxide 23 Clod

DOWN: 1 February 2 Onset 4 Resort 5 Tight-fisted 6 Feather 7 Lapp 9 Dispatch box 12 Asteroid 14 Pronoun 16 Recund 18 Aural 19 Prim

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Presidents to exchange visits

Clinton steers clear of human rights in talks with Jiang

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN MANILA

THE leaders of America and China decided yesterday to visit each other's country during the next two years — but agreed on little else except that their relationship is important for global peace and stability.

President Clinton and President Jiang Zemin, both of whom are seeking stature as international statesmen, met before today's start of the 18-leader Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum at Subic in the Philippines. They said that Vice-President Al Gore would go to Peking in the first half of next year and that presidential visits would take place before the end of 1998.

George Bush, Mr Clinton's predecessor, visited China in 1989 before the Tiananmen pro-democracy protests were suppressed violently. Mr Jiang has been to Seattle, for an earlier Apec meeting, where he first met Mr Clinton. Their 85-minute discussion yesterday took place in a fortified bank building, built by Ferdinand Marcos, the late Philippines leader, to protect the national treasury, and regarded as a secure venue in a violent city where restaurant signs invite guests to check in their guns at the door.

During last week's visit to

Manila: Riot police yesterday blocked a highway north of here to prevent a convoy of left-wing protesters from travelling to Subic to disrupt today's summit of the Asia-Pacific leaders (Abby Tan writes). Summit leaders are to formally approve a blueprint to create the world's largest free trade zone — encompassing 58 per cent of the world economy — by 2020.

Peking by Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, it was determined that there would be no tense moments between the two men. Mr Christopher made clear the new American policy of constructive engagement meant that Peking would no longer be treated as a human-rights pariah. Winston Lord, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia, agreed yesterday that although human rights "is a very important question", no names of political prisoners, such as Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan, were mentioned by Mr Clinton.

Mike Jendrzewski, the Washington-based director of Human Rights Watch/Asia, said earlier: "In his eagerness to announce a US-Asia summit, Clinton seems to be on the

verge of selling out on human rights." After the meeting, he said: "Not a name of a single prisoner. A sell-out."

Sources close to the White House said yesterday that the Administration believed that "despite Wei and Wang, over the next ten years human rights will get better in China. So the issue has been downgraded except for rhetorical purposes. What worries them is Chinese arms proliferation, especially of nuclear technology."

Mr Shen said at the weekend that "China never did, does not and never will export nuclear technology". The day before, Mr Christopher said that at his Peking meeting with Qian Qichen, the Foreign Minister, "I spoke about our concern about military sales to rogue nations — sales of products that might aid in the development of weapons of mass destruction... We urged the Chinese not to be involved in that kind of trade."

He was referring to Chinese sales to Iran of missile guidance systems. America is known to be concerned, too, about missile and missile factory sales to Pakistan and sales of critical nuclear components to Iraq and Syria.

A US Administration source drew attention to the muted American reaction to the recent jailing for 11 years of Wang Dan, the Tiananmen leader, saying: "A couple of days later [the Chinese] said they were rethinking their sales to Iran."

The Presidents agreed to disagree on all important points. Taiwan was barely mentioned. On Chinese entry to the World Trade Organisation, control of which is an American trump card, they agreed on flexibility.

The meeting had a bizarre moment. China usually gives pandas to world leaders with whom it wishes to get on. Yesterday Mr Jiang gave evidence of the remains of a crashed Second World War B24 bomber and its crew. The Chinese called it an outstanding example of goodwill.



Irene Skliwa, from Athens, yesterday, after she was crowned Miss World in India

Activists go into hiding as Miss World is crowned

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BANGALORE

MISS GREECE, crowned Miss World on Saturday night, wore a sari borrowed from a hotel housekeeper yesterday to present herself to the press. "It is the most bigger experience of my life and I will never forget it," she said in English, which she is studying at journalism school.

Irene Skliwa, 18, from Athens, came primed with evasive answers to questions about boyfriends and her feelings toward traditionalist Hindus who condemned the event, held in Bangalore. Miss Skliwa said she had not yet decided how to spend the \$80,000 (£48,000) prize

money, but added that she "would like to have a lot of travel and try to have fun".

Julia Morley, the competition organiser, announced that some of the proceeds would be used to set up open-heart surgery facilities for children in Bangalore. A cancer hospital and the forthcoming Army and Navy Week in Bombay would also benefit.

Twelve Hindu women who were supposed to have immolated themselves and swallowed cyanide at the crowning ceremony were nowhere to be seen. Ten thousand police, thousands of paramilitary forces and legions of private guards sealed

off the stadium where the event was held in a drizzle.

Kinay Sashikala, the women's activist who led the protest movement, went into hiding late last week to avoid arrest. Her immolation threat was a bluff, but it cost Miss World Inc. dearly as the huge security operation kept spectators away and caused ticket prices to crash.

More than 1,000 suspected protesters were arrested before the event and groups of women were attacked by police with canes and taken away in buses when they tried to stage a street protest. Chilli powder was thrown into the eyes of some policemen.

Military options set for Zaire operation

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MILITARY chiefs from countries which have offered to contribute towards a multinational force for Zaire agreed yesterday on three possible options for the mission as aid workers began assessing the scale of the refugee problem around Bukavu.

With aid agencies and military officials at loggerheads over the number of refugees unaccounted for — between about 200,000 and 700,000 — the emergency meeting of defence officials in Stuttgart highlighted the difficulty of producing recommendations for governments when not all the facts are known.

After three days of deliberations, three options for action emerged: basing a large force in Zaire, capable of mounting a relief operation with self-supporting logistics back-up and with firepower; locating a much smaller logistics force in Rwanda offering help to the civilian relief operation; and the "zero option", backing away from sending any force.

Senior British defence sources said that although Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, appeared keen to involve British troops in any relief effort, the military were becoming increasingly doubtful about the wisdom of deploying soldiers when the mission was still so unclear.

Many British troops remain on short notice to leave for Zaire — ranging from 72 hours to five days — but it is now more likely that the Government will be advised to send the equivalent of a logistics regiment of 700 to 1,000 men if a multi-national force is approved.

The crucial issue is the whereabouts of the remaining refugees in eastern Zaire. US Army officers have said there are only 202,000 refugees and many are believed to be the families of the Interahamwe rebels and former Hutu forces fleeing deeper into the jungle areas.

The first group of Rwandan refugees to arrive from camps in the Bukavu area, south of Lake Kivu, reached their homeland yesterday after walking more than 100 miles north around the Zaire side of the lake.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mother Teresa worsens

Bangalore: Mother Teresa, 86, suffered heart failure for the second time in three days yesterday. Doctors said she would not be released from hospital soon (Christopher Thomas writes). "We cannot say there is no danger to her life, but at this moment she is not critical," Dr S.K. Sen, her cardiologist, said.

She was admitted to the private Woodlands Nursing Home in Calcutta on Friday after a heart attack, the third time since August that she had been in hospital for emergency care. The Nobel laureate told doctors on Saturday that she wanted to go home but she suffered left ventricular heart failure that evening and again yesterday.

Statue blessed

Jakarta: A 56ft statue of Christ, donated to East Timor by Indonesia, the territory's Muslim ruler, was blessed by Bishop Carlos Belo, the East Timorese Nobel Peace laureate. (AP)

Priests beatified

Vatican City: The Pope has beatified two Austrian priests killed by the Nazis. Otto Neururer was tortured and hanged at Buchenwald camp and Jakob Gapp was guillotined in Berlin. (AP)

Taleban push

Kabul: The Taleban militia has launched an offensive from its frontline north of the Afghan capital, commanders said. "We have captured Guldara," a Taleban leader claimed. (AFP)

Poll reversal

Belgrade: A municipal court here overturned the victory in local elections of an anti-government coalition, provoking claims that President Milosevic is making a mockery of democracy. (Reuters)

21 die in cart

Delhi: Twenty-one people in a marriage party were killed when the cart they were travelling in, pulled by a tractor, collided with a truck at Kota in Rajasthan, news agencies reported. (Reuters)



President Ramos greets President Clinton at the state palace in Manila yesterday before today's Apec summit

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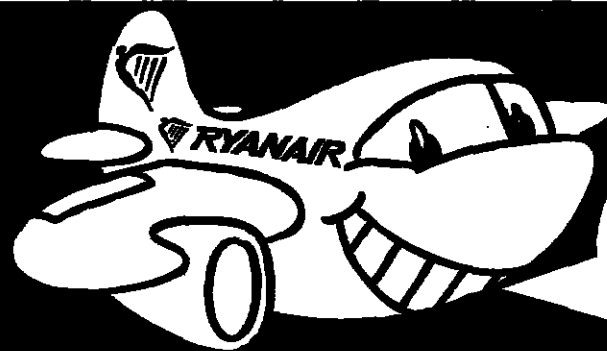
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Small print of Maastricht devalues Britain's single currency opt-out

Amid the brouhaha surrounding John Major's refusal to allow a few hundred pages of densely worded EU draft law to be debated on the floor of the House of Commons, we have not learnt much about what the documents themselves say and mean. What is the fuss about?

Nothing at all, says Kenneth Clarke, who has written to every MP saying that nothing under consideration altered the fact that "unless we join EMU stage 3 [i.e. the single currency] we



THIS WEEK
IN EUROPE

retain complete control of domestic and economic policy". The Chancellor of the Exchequer has at least identi-

fied the pivotal issue: can a British Government outside the single currency be forced to alter economic policy in any way it does not want to?

The papers which started the row, draft regulations on the surveillance of Budgetary Positions, Excessive Deficit Procedure and an outline of one on "reinforced convergence procedures" are pieces of a larger jigsaw. The bigger picture shows that Mr Clarke's assurance of complete control is flimsy.

Economic freedom is exactly what the EU majority will

not want Britain to have outside a single currency zone. Since the single currency is an economic means to the political end of closer union, the German and French governments are determined that the euro must be strong enough to pull most other countries into its orbit within a few years of being launched.

Neither Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, nor President Chirac of France has the faintest intention of allowing rival currencies either to devalue far against the

euro or to become rival poles of attraction. On the day after the Maastricht treaty text had been finished, I asked one of the most senior figures involved what odds he would give on Britain joining the single currency. "Come the day, we will be there," he replied.

But within the next two years, the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) had fallen apart and monetary union was growing. This history is worth recalling

because exchange rates, and not stability pacts or surveillance programmes, will be the heart of any future struggle over the autonomy of British economic policy. Mr Clarke is perfectly correct to tell MPs that the stability pact documents do not affect Britain unless it signs up for the euro.

He also has an arguable case that the rules requiring the British economy to "converge" with the single-currency zone are not enforceable with anything much more terrible than a slap on the

wrist. But Mr Clarke avoids mentioning that far more telling documents are yet to come from the Commission interpreting Article 109 (m) (2) of Maastricht which deals — enigmatically — with exchange-rate policies after a single currency has begun.

One of the papers now in the Commons hints that fresh rules are on the way, saying that when detailed convergence rules are written they will cover "prospects for the exchange rate". A new version

of the ERM is supposed to exclude Britain but what will that opt-out be worth?

Article 109 (m) says that every EU Government must treat its exchange rate as "a matter of common interest". Paragraph 2 of this article points out that it applies "by analogy" to states outside the euro. Lawyers are busy debating the exact significance of the words "by analogy". You do not need to be a lawyer to see that Britain's position is less than watertight.

GEORGE BROCK

Chechens declare end of conflict

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL
IN MOSCOW

CHECHEN leaders pronounced the war in Chechnya over yesterday after President Yeltsin ordered the withdrawal of the last two Russian brigades from the republic.

Opposition leaders in Moscow called the move an "act of national betrayal", however, and said they would table a motion of no confidence in the Government in parliament next week.

On Saturday, almost two years after the Russians first tried to oust the rebel regime led by General Dzhokhar, Moscow has signalled that it cannot control Chechnya. The two sides have signed a deal that sets out the ground rules for their relationship before elections are held in the republic on January 27.



Belarus soldiers queue to cast their presidential referendum ballots yesterday at their base in Minsk

Belarus President wins dictatorial powers in ballot

BY RICHARD BEESTON
IN MINSK

A COMFORTABLE victory assured for President Lukashenko last night in a referendum to grant him sweeping new powers, which effectively will turn the former Soviet Republic of Belarus into a dictatorship.

As polls closed, a landslide was predicted for the young populist leader, who has been locked in confrontation with opposition in parliament.

The main provisions of the seven-point referendum call for a new constitution that would extend the President's tenure by two and a half years. It would also allow him to appoint half the members of the constitutional court and the electoral commission, as well as many deputies in a new two-chamber parliament. He already has complete control over the army, the security forces and the media.

Looking relaxed and confident as he cast his ballot at a polling station in Minsk, the former collective farm boss said that the results of the referendum would come into force as soon as the last vote was counted.

"I voted for Lukashenko because I believe in what he stands for," said Valerie Senitsen, emerging with his wife from the polling station in central Minsk. "This country needs a strong leader: he is the

only man for the job." Thousands of demonstrators, including communists, nationalists and democrats, braved the first snowfall of the winter to protest against their mercurial leader outside the capital's parliament building, until now the centre of opposition to his rule. However, the rally eventually dispersed quietly as it dawned on the opposition that their battle was lost. "I am voting against Lukashenko because he is dangerous and power-hungry and will hurt our country," Sergie Urban, a businessman, said. "Unfortunately, I know he will win."

Bryan Cassidy, a British MEP, said after a tour of polling stations that the voting had been "far from fair". In particular, he complained about the President's monopoly over the media and the procedure of having voting

stations open for two weeks in the run-up to yesterday's final day of polling. "In one polling station we visited today, they actually had a poster of President Lukashenko hanging on the wall," he said.

Nevertheless, criticism of the Belarus leader has had little or no effect in the past and the West is largely powerless to influence the leadership in Minsk, particularly since efforts by the International Monetary Fund to reform the economy broke down this year.

The only country that exerts any influence here is Russia, which maintains close political and economic ties with Belarus. However, the limitations of the Russian's leverage over the country's unpredictable leader were exposed on Friday, when Viktor Chornomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, negotiated a compromise between the President and parliament which collapsed hours later.

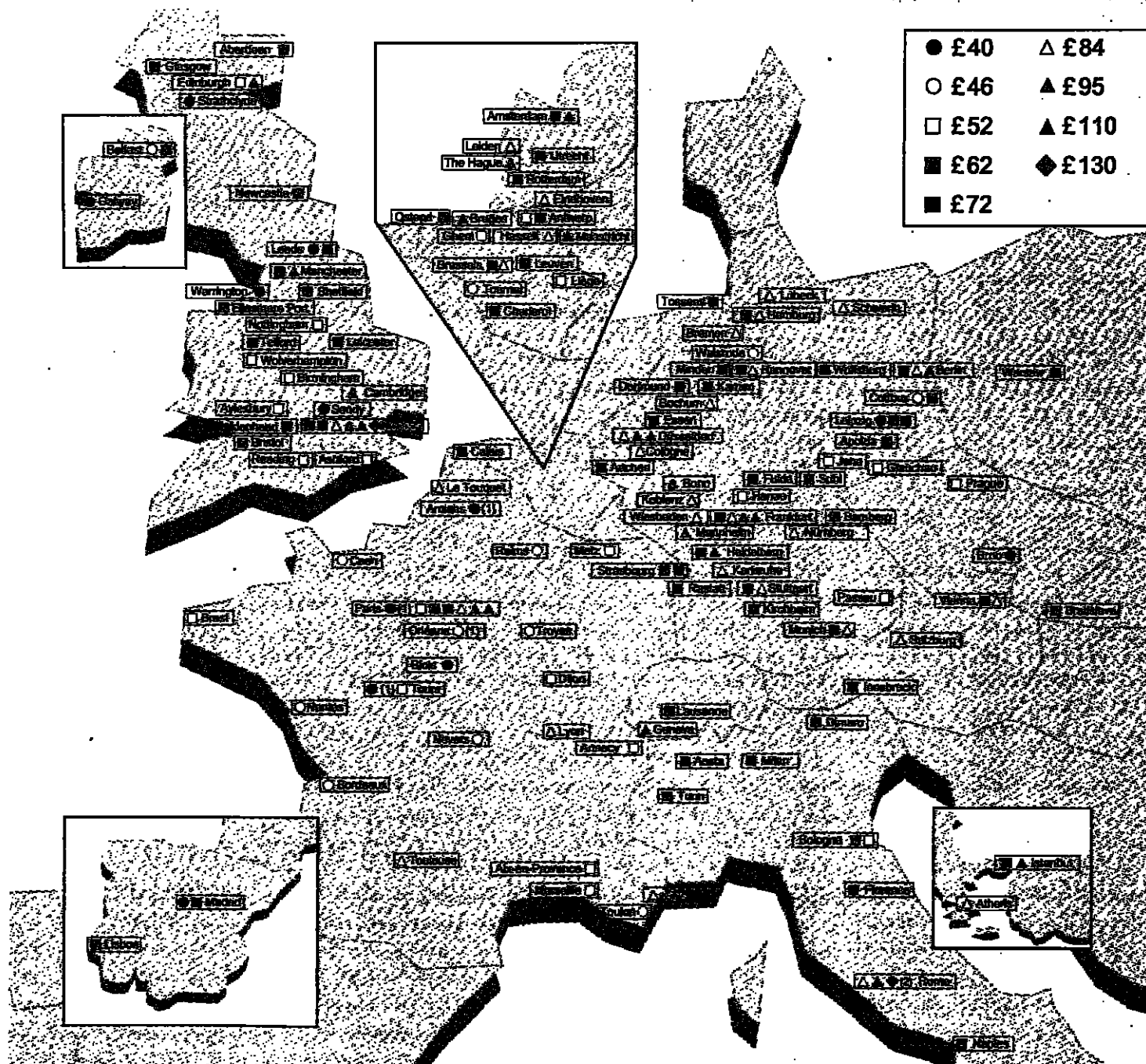
The Russians are aware of the need to keep the President in his place. On Saturday, Russian state television broadcast a recording of an interview with President Lukashenko in which he praised Hitler. The move may have been a warning. The Kremlin has powerful levers at its disposal, for instance Belarus's reliance on its giant eastern neighbour for all its oil, gas and electricity.

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Queen Sofia: austere

Spanish king wooed in English

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

AN AUTHORISED biography of Queen Sofia is to be published this week in the run-up to Christmas. Extracts have appeared in two of Spain's leading newspapers. *La Reina*, by Pilar Urbano, is the first serious book on the Queen, who belongs to the Greek Royal Family and has always kept a restrained profile in Spain. Austere and cerebral, in contrast to her expansive husband, King Juan Carlos, she was also handicapped in her early years of her marriage by a lack of fluency in Spanish.

Señora Urbano's book, in a style that is a mixture of *Hei!oi* and *The Spectator*, is bound to raise Queen Sofia's profile, which is precisely what the royal household wants. Although only 58 and in good health, the King, who is slightly hard of hearing, is inclined increasingly to share his duties with his wife.

Although the relationship between the Spanish King and Queen has not always been smooth, the new biography reveals that both have made considerable efforts to find a common wavelength. The Queen says: "Our relationship has evolved into a friendship, a very strong friendship. I am his companion, his fellow-traveller. We will always journey together."

In another extract from the book, King Juan Carlos reveals that he "courted the Queen in English. We spoke English together then... and English isn't precisely... the language which inspires and impassions me most."

Threat of strike over Madrid pay freeze

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

SPAIN'S powerful unions have threatened to call a general strike next month if José María Aznar, the Prime Minister, does not revoke his Government's decision to freeze the salaries of civil servants and public sector employees.

The threat was made by Antonio Gutiérrez, leader of one of the main general workers' unions, at a protest demonstration in Madrid at the weekend. According to the organisers' estimates, more than 200,000 government employees took part in the demonstration.

The decision to freeze wages was made recently as part of the Spanish Government's

efforts to cut public spending and reduce the budget deficit. A government spokesman said yesterday that there was absolutely no question of a change in essential economic policy, which is designed to ensure Spain's entry into the first tier of a single European currency.

Earlier, Señor Aznar, who arrives in London on Wednesday for official talks with the Government, described the wage freeze as "a reasonable measure". In London he is expected to discuss EU issues. Gibraltar will also be on the agenda in talks with John Major.

Leading article, page 25

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British convoy gives strikers the slip, but crisis deepens for Juppé

Lorry blockade threatens French petrol supplies

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

A FRENCH Government mediator was appointed yesterday to try to end a week-old protest by lorry drivers which has caused traffic chaos across much of France.

Militant drivers' unions vowed to tighten blockades at fuel depots and to reinforce roadblocks around more than 30 cities across France in the coming week, as the strike began to cut into fuel and food supplies in the worst-hit areas.

A convoy of British lorries broke through a blockade at Avignon on Saturday and headed for the coast of northern France, but at least 1,000 Britons were stranded in their vehicles over the weekend.

The French drivers, demanding higher wages and earlier retirement, began their protest last Monday and yesterday union leaders issued a warning that the protest would spread to teaching and transport unions unless haulage bosses backed down. After talks collapsed on the third day on Saturday, the Government appointed Roger Crox, a Transport Ministry official, as mediator in the dispute. Mr Crox is the former head of the national conciliation commission, set up after the crippling lorry drivers' strike of 1992.

"The state is determined to do its share to reach an accord," the ministry said as unions and bosses prepared for yet another round of talks last night.



Juppé offering help on early retirement

Despite the widespread disruption, a poll for the France 2 television station reflected overwhelming support for the lorry drivers, with 74 per cent expressing "solidarity" with the protest.

Two young people were killed and four were injured early yesterday when their car crashed into a stationary lorry, taking part in the protest on the Caen ring-road. The youths had reportedly removed police cones closing the road to traffic.

As the dispute enters its second week, police in southern France have begun taking over fuel depots in order to ensure sufficient supplies for emergency vehicles such as ambulances, fire engines and police cars. With more than a dozen depots and refineries sealed off, some petrol stations in Normandy and parts of the south have already run out of

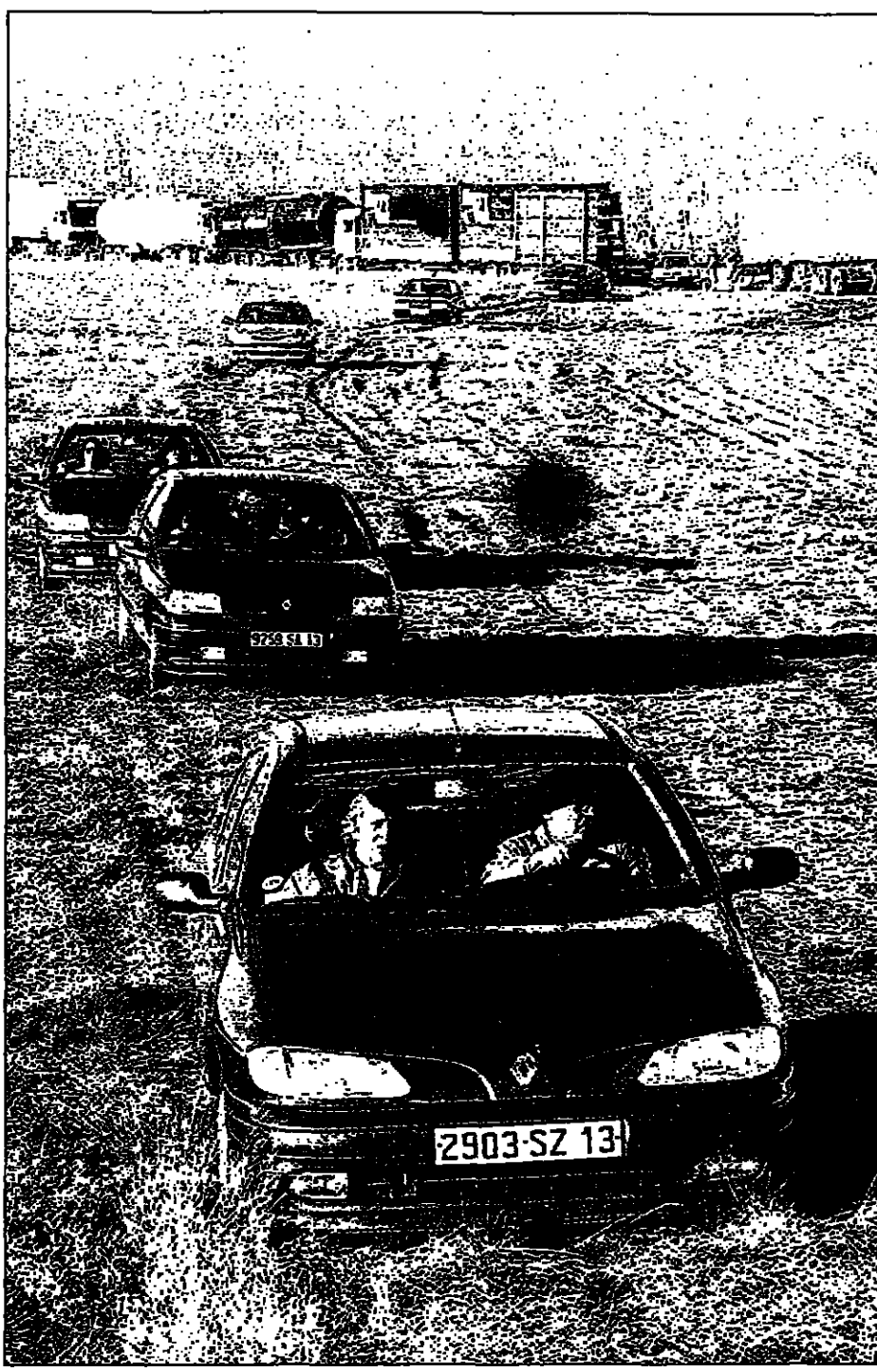
supplies. "People are panicking. They're rushing to fill up their cars," a petrol pump owner in Marseilles said. Government officials warned the public that they could expect fuel shortages beginning tomorrow, if the dispute continued.

Some of the smaller British haulage companies say they face ruin with cargoes rotting in lorries stranded for up to a week. The Department of Transport has called on the French Government to make it easier for British lorry drivers to file compensation claims.

French union leaders have pledged to increase industrial action if their bosses do not agree to demands for increased wages, shorter hours and the right to retire on a full pension at 55 rather than 60.

The French economy is still suffering from the effects of last year's disastrous 24-day transport strike and Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, is desperate to avoid another drawn-out confrontation. The Government has agreed that it will help to fund earlier retirement as part of a general accord to end the dispute, but the haulage companies have said they will make no more concessions.

The mounting protest comes against a background of high unemployment, poor economic results and increasing anger at government austerity policies that are designed to ensure France qualifies for European monetary union.



Drivers cut across a field to avoid a lorry drivers' road blockade near Marseilles

Protesting drivers reduce traffic to escargot's pace

BY BEN MACINTYRE

FOR a week France has been discovering, once again, that no one knows how to create a traffic snarl-up better than a French lorry driver.

Motorists faced long delays over the weekend as protesting drivers stopped lorries carrying fuel and other supplies, blocked roads, or reduced traffic to a single lane on many main roads. Hundreds of lorries formed creeping convoys in

the "opération escargot" designed to slow traffic to a snail's pace.

Some blockades were dismantled as strikers took a weekend off, and north of Bordeaux the lorry drivers briefly lifted a blockade on the A10 motorway to allow through more than 100 exhausted and frustrated foreign lorry drivers. But there were few signs of easing elsewhere, as unions vowed to "tighten the screws" this week. In the Auvergne, Burgundy and around Clermont-Ferrand

police reported long tailbacks as drivers slowly filtered cars through the lorry barricades.

Similar congestion was reported at many other cities, including Marseilles, Le Mans, Troyes and particularly Bordeaux, the city where Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, is Mayor and which has become a key focus of protest.

On Saturday the demonstrators moved to block the motorway linking Paris with the vast Rungis

wholesale market, which supplies more than two million tonnes of fresh food to the capital every day.

Drivers' unions said they would allow food supplies through, but warned that a full-scale blockade of Paris was a potential "last resort". For the fourth day in succession, drivers blocked a bridge connecting France with Germany across the Rhine near Strasbourg allowing only certain cars to pass. More than 100 lorries were being prevented

from moving across the border last night.

Foreign lorry drivers may have reason to curse their French counterparts, but support for the protest among French voters remains strong. Outside the city of Caen, a local restaurateur cooked a huge paella at the roadside yesterday, which he distributed to cold lorry drivers as they prepared to tighten their stranglehold on the country's road system in coming days.

Bulgarian leader pledges inquiry into Markov case

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

PETAR STOYANOV, Bulgaria's President-elect, yesterday promised to use his powers to clear up the murder of Georgi Markov, the exiled writer who 18 years ago was stabbed with a poisoned umbrella while crossing Waterloo Bridge in London.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Stoyanov emphasised that the Markov case would be one of his priorities after being sworn into office in January. "For Bulgarian society the question has acquired symbolic importance. The assassination was one of the most horrible pages in our recent history and I intend to reopen the case," he said.

Berlin: Bulgaria has appealed to the European Union for aid to bail the country out of its worst winter crisis since 1920. Petar Stoyanov said he had asked Malcolm Rifkind and Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, to help to provide wheat and fodder shipments. As annual inflation nears 200 per cent, ordinary Bulgarians are finding it hard to pay for basic supplies.

Markov, who was working for the BBC World Service, was murdered in 1978, apparently as part of a communist crackdown on dissident exiles.

Mr Stoyanov, on a visit to Berlin, said it might be difficult to unearth the truth after so many years, but added: "Rest assured I will make use of every possibility within my powers to discover the truth in this case."

That seems to suggest that the future President is preparing to do battle with the secret police, an organisation which, apart from a rather superficial purge under Yordan Sokolov, the Interior Minister, in 1991, has stayed remarkably intact.

"The President has not insignificant influence over the security services," Mr Stoyanov said. Markov was one of Bulgaria's most talented playwrights and for a while enjoyed the patronage of Todor Zhivkov, the communist leader. But he was eventually incensed by

the corruption of the regime and, in 1969, defected. His description of the lavish lifestyles of the communist elite, broadcast into Bulgaria by Radio Free Europe and the BBC, enraged Zhivkov and a high-level decision was taken to kill Markov.

One evening he left his office at Bush House and walked across Waterloo Bridge to take the train home to Clapham. He felt a sharp jab in his thigh and, as he turned round, he saw a man picking up an umbrella. The writer soon developed a high temperature. Three days later he was dead.

A post-mortem examination, conducted with the help of scientists from the Government's chemical defence establishment at Porton Down, discovered a pellet the size of a pinhead containing a dose of 0.2 milligrams of ricin, a poison twice as powerful as the venom of a cobra. When the report was completed, there was little doubt that the Bulgarian secret police were behind the attack.

After the fall of the communist regime Bulgaria made various attempts to investigate the murder. Mr Stoyanov's predecessor, President Zhelev, met Markov's British widow, Annabel, and pressed for an investigation. But the power of the old socialist establishment, which for the past four years has impeded economic and institutional reform, has blocked proper investigation.

Mr Stoyanov has a passion. His father was jailed by the communists after the war and this old grievance may drive him on in the hunt not only for the umbrella killers but also for their protectors.



Markov: poisoned with umbrella in London

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Missing matter may turn out to be just hot air

Exit, the Wimp

THE long search for missing matter is reminiscent of Lewis Carroll's *Hunting of the Snark*. For just as the snark turned out in the end to be a Boojum, so missing matter may turn out to be nothing more than huge clouds of ordinary gas, or so a team of astronomers have reported.

If so, theories that the Universe is full of exotic but invisible particles — called Wimps, for weakly-interacting massive particles — will have to be cast aside in favour of something altogether more mundane. "They sought it with thimbles, they sought it with care, they pursued it with forks and with hope," ... and they found it with a satellite tuned to the extreme ultraviolet.

The story so far is that the universe behaves in a puzzling way, given what we can see. The visible matter, in the form of stars, is simply not there in sufficient quantity to explain why objects are not spinning apart faster than they are. Spiral galaxies, for example, seem to hold together although the gravitational forces attributable to their components do not provide sufficient glue.

Astronomers conclude, therefore, that there must be a lot of "missing mass" — about ten times as much as the matter we can see. In *Science*, a team of astronomers from American universities but including one from Britain, Dr Jonathan Mullan of the Mullard Space Science Laboratory in Dorking, Surrey, report that they turned the Extreme Ultraviolet Explorer satellite on to a massive galactic cluster called Coma, 300 million light years away in the constellation Coma Berenices. They detected the presence of a massive cloud of cool gas permeating the cluster. Last year two members of the team reported the presence of a similar gas cloud in the Virgo cluster.

The amounts are substantial. At face value, the observations suggest that the gas in the central 2.6 million light-year region of the Coma cluster may weigh as much as 100 trillion suns. That would make it about as heavy as the entire visible mass of the cluster. Astronomers already know that such clusters contain large amounts of hot gas as well, from observations in the X-ray

region of the spectrum. In this context, hot means 93 million degrees C, and cold somewhere between 800,000 and two million degrees.

When the cold gas in Virgo was discovered, many astronomers were dubious. Couldn't it simply be hot gas that had cooled? The team have shown that the amounts are simply too great for that to be a viable explanation. Now, says Dr Stuart Bowyer, one of the team responsible: "The story has just switched from 'the data are clearly wrong' to 'no, it's right but unexplainable'. It's now up to the theorists to explain to the astronomers why it's right."

The gas poses two puzzles: where it comes from and why it is still hot enough to emit radiation in the ultraviolet. It ought to cool so fast that it would long ago have stopped emitting this radiation, so either it is being replenished or cooled gas is being reheated. "Why should gas hang around at this temperature?" asks Dr Liu. "Either it should heat up and become part of the X-ray emitting gas, or cool off, in which case why do we see it at all?"

The EUV Explorer made the observations in a region of the spectrum that most astronomers thought would show little, because radiation of this wavelength is strongly absorbed by the interstellar medium — the thinly dispersed atoms and molecules that exist in space. The next stage will be to determine whether most or all clusters of galaxies such as the Coma and Virgo clusters emit extreme ultraviolet, and thus whether they are all enveloped in cooler gas.

"We need to look at more clusters to gather statistics," Dr Liu says. If they all turn out the same, then a substantial part of the missing mass will not be Wimps at all, but boring old baryons — matter made up of everyday protons and neutrons.



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

Kicking the cat is bad for the heart

BEWARE of anger: it can seriously shorten your life. Although the old idea that stress leads to heart attacks has largely been discredited, a study at Harvard Medical School has found that anger does. And the angrier you are, the greater the risk.

Dr Ichiro Kawachi followed 559 angry men chosen from a large group of patients attending clinics run by the Veterans Administration. Over a seven-year period, 59 of these men suffered from coronary heart disease, compared with eight among 199 men without symptoms of anger.

The level of anger was measured by a written survey. Dr Kawachi reports in the journal *Circulation*. "We're talking about extreme anger here, not the common-or-garden irritation we might all feel," he said. "Some of these men felt like exploding, others were constantly irritable and grouchy. Some would attack furniture or other people." He attributes the effect to high levels of adrenalin triggered by the rages.

Burial ground may prove Ebola theory



THE discovery of a mass grave containing at least 130 Athenians who died during the mysterious plague that hit the city in about 430 BC could enable an epidemiologist to put an idea to the test.

Last year Dr Patrick Olsen of the Naval Medical Centre in San Diego suggested that the plague might have been caused by Ebola fever.

He based the conjecture on descriptions of the symptoms recorded at the time. But the newly discovered burial ground, in the Kerameikos cemetery in Athens, might allow corroborative evidence to be gathered. Scholars have argued for years over what caused the plague, in which, according to Thucydides, thousands died.

Dr Olsen has no idea if any of the tissues will still contain detectable amounts of DNA from the Ebola virus, but he is keen to find out. He says that the virus replicates so widely in human tissue that it should not be hard to detect. But first he needs permission from the authorities responsible for the excavation.

A light on blindness

Should cells from unborn babies be used to treat patients with diseases which are now incurable? Anjana Ahuja on a medical dilemma

There is a near magical "cure-all" which promises to reverse Parkinson's disease. Huntington's disease and, according to the astonishing news last week, even give hope to the blind.

Yet it is unlikely to be hailed as a potent new medical weapon. Why? Because the treatment is based on the transplantation of cells from aborted fetuses. Scientists have found that healthy foetal cells are ideal for this technique because they adapt more readily than adult cells to their new surroundings. Young cells do not have fully refined immune responses, making them less likely to be rejected.

The idea of using foetuses as a source of material may be distasteful to some, but the potential benefits are vast. There are estimated to be 100,000 people suffering from the degenerative brain condition Parkinson's disease in Britain alone. Doctors have shown that implanting foetal brain cells in such patients can arrest and, in a few cases, even reverse the disease, which is caused by a dwindling flow of the neurotransmitter dopamine. The injected cells flourish in their host, forming fresh connections and resuming dopamine transmission.

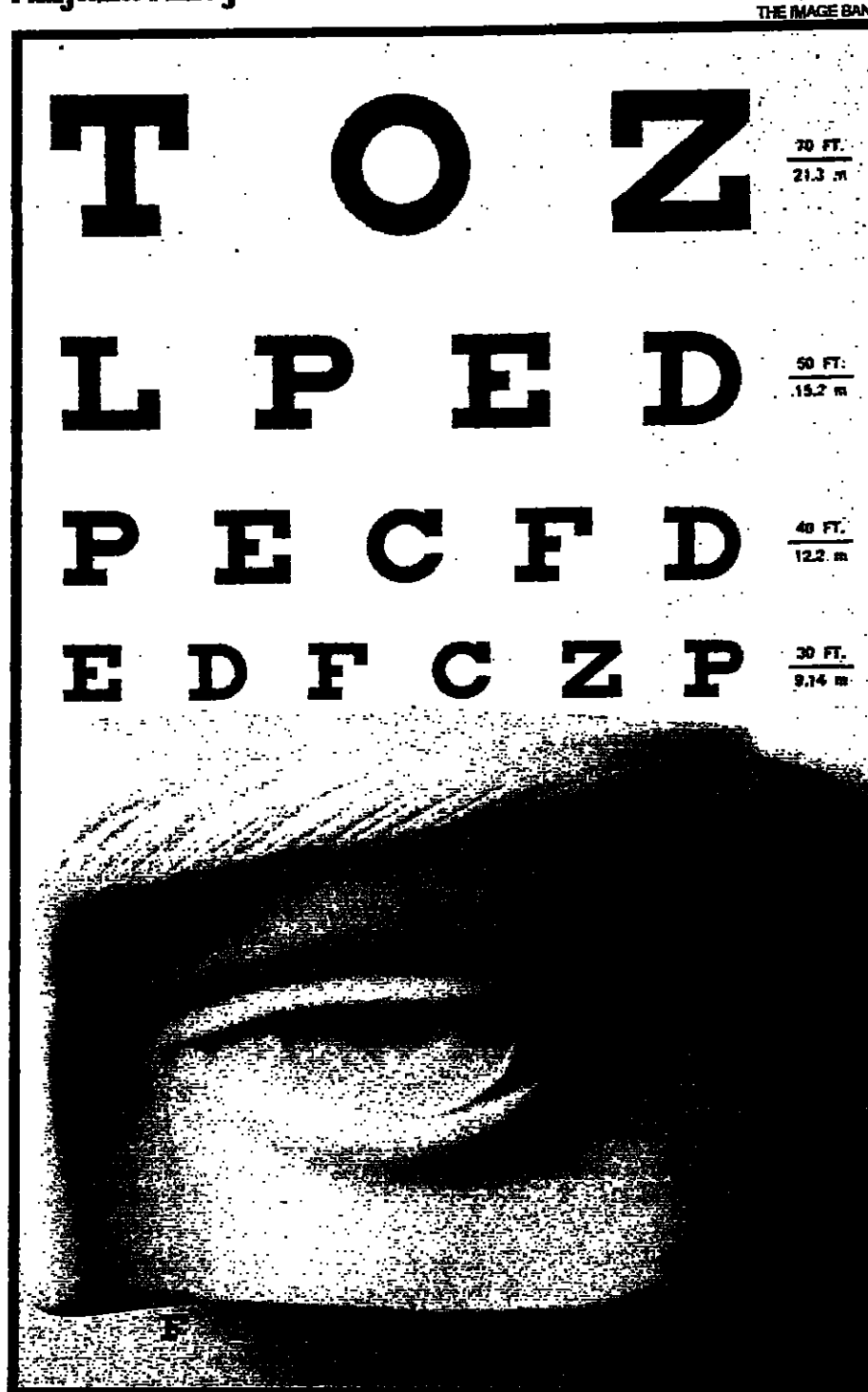
Another 5,000 sufferers of Huntington's disease, an incurable nerve disease, could also benefit. Neuroscientists at the Centre for Brain Repair at Cambridge University are hoping to start medical trials soon. Foetal cells are particularly appropriate for treating such diseases, since the brain is less likely to reject foreign tissue than some other organs. There is even talk of using foetal tissue to alleviate Alzheimer's disease.

The benefits seem to stretch beyond the brain, according to findings announced last week. Foetal material could help people suffering from retinitis pigmentosa (RP), an inherited disease of the retina. According to the British Retinitis Pigmentosa Society, 25,000 families in Britain are afflicted, making RP the biggest inherited cause of blindness among people of working age.

The retina is a membrane of nerve tissue which covers the back inner surface of the eyeball, detecting light and passing on visual information to the brain. Its specialised nerve cells, rods and cones, convert light energy into nerve impulses.

The rods and cones are nourished and protected by pigmented epithelial cells. However, in RP sufferers, these cells malfunction.

Dr Manuel del Cerro, an ophthalmologist from the University of Rochester Medical School in New York, transplanted foetal retinal



Some patients with retinitis pigmentosa have regained vision after cell transplants

cells which would have developed into rods or cones into eight RP sufferers. The cells had been extracted from aborted fetuses aged between 14 and 19 weeks. Each operation, carried out a year ago in India, involved the injection of about a million foetal cells. Four patients have since regained some sight.

Dr del Cerro, who reported his team's findings last week to the Society for Neuroscience in Washington, has no qualms about using foetuses. He says: "The woman will abort regardless of whether we use her foetus or not. She gives her written consent, and

patients are fully informed. Nobody has refused the operation so far."

Professor John Marshall, the chief medical adviser to the British Retinitis Pigmentosa Society, says that provided the treatment is within legal and ethical guidelines, deciding to have it should be a matter of personal choice. However, he cautions against raising hopes too high: "It's a promising piece of research, but it has yet to undergo proper scientific peer review."

In recognition of the sensitivity of the subject, the Rev Dr John Polkinghorne, President of Queen's College Cam-

bridge, chaired a committee of inquiry which reported in 1989 that a woman's decision to abort should not be influenced by the possible use of her dead foetus. She should never be placed under moral or financial pressure to abort for the good of medical science.

The report also advised that there should be no direct contact between institutions which carry out abortions and those which use foetal tissue in research or therapy. It recommended the setting up of a separate organisation to control the movement of tissue.

Dr Polkinghorne says:

"Our committee foresaw a growing use for foetal tissue, and our view is that provided our ethical guidelines were followed, and the material was being used for a serious purpose, we would be happy."

As he points out, the principal ethical objections come from those who completely oppose abortion. "We did look at this issue of 'moral taint' but decided that it should not prohibit research." One of the objectors was Dr Richard Nicholson, the editor of the *Bulletin of Medical Ethics*, who protested publicly at the research into Huntington's disease.

Despite the clear guidelines drawn up by the Polkinghorne report, experts on medical ethics continue to ponder the moral dilemma. "People are now using human tissue and human organs for research which we never dreamt of even 50 years ago, and we just don't have the legislation to deal with that," says Dr Rachel Bartlett, dep-

The issue of moral taint should not inhibit research

uty head of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics. "The problem comes with how we define the human body. Is it property, or do we need to define it slightly differently?"

"For now, our own recommendations are in line with the Polkinghorne report. It is extremely important that there is a protective barrier between the mother and any scientific research in which her foetus could be used."

Dr Bartlett also points out that, should the new treatments for Parkinson's, Huntington's and retinitis pigmentosa become accepted, demand for foetal tissue will soar. "About six or seven foetuses are needed to treat one Parkinson's patient. Availability of material may be limited, especially when the source is so ethically sensitive."

Xenotransplantation — the use of animal material in human beings — might be one way round the problem. Scientists at the Lahey Hitchcock Medical Centre in Boston have treated Parkinson's patients with foetal tissue from pigs. Another option is to culture, or grow, human cells in the laboratory. That way, one foetus could provide for many operations. But however scientists choose to progress in this delicate field, the ethical and moral issues seem unlikely to go away.

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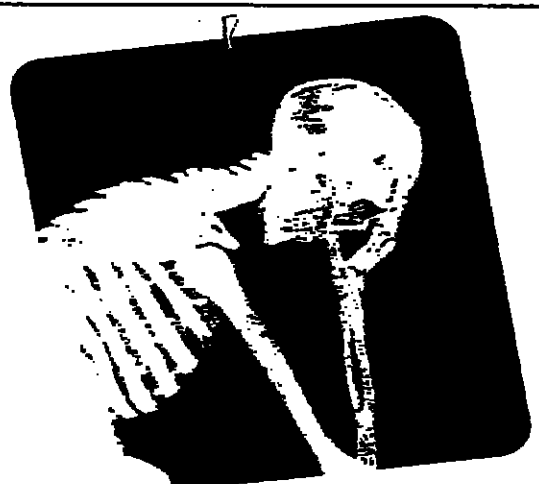
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Lesbianism is big box office, and Hollywood is in on the act, **Quentin Letts** reports

Earlier this year a European film, *French Twist*, won applause from critics and did well at the box office. It told the story of an unconventional household in France: one man and two women. But it was not your normal bloke's fantasy of two women chasing the same man, or of them hopping into bed with him.

In *Losing Chase* Helen Mirren falls for a woman

Ser It Off, starting a well-

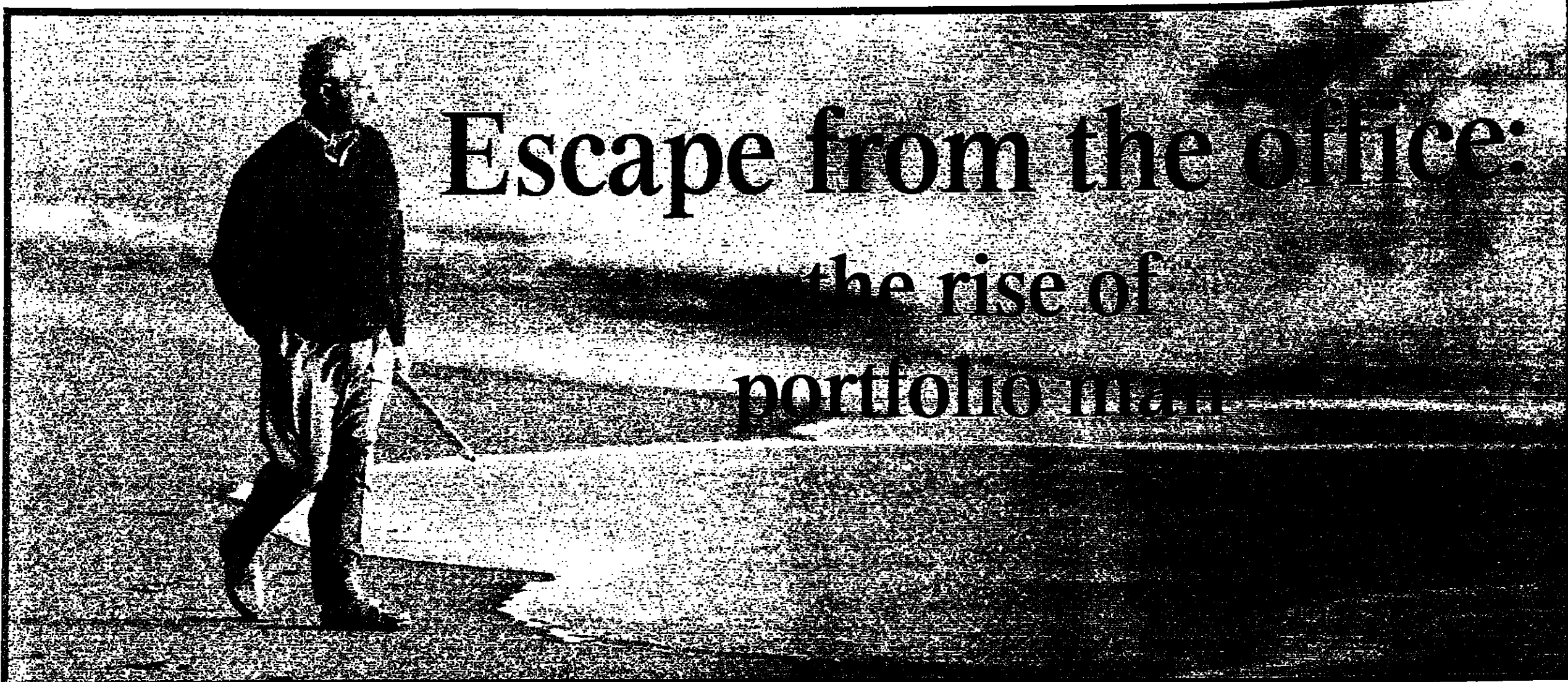
Until now, any film with a lesbian scene has been acclaimed by the gay sorority as a masterpiece. The real sign that gay films have arrived will be the first lesbian critic who calls a Sapphic movie a dog — or rather, a bitch.

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Looking forward: "Early retirement is like life itself — it's up to you what you make of it. If you keep mentally and physically active, it can be one of life's most rewarding phases, an opportunity to live life the way you want to"

Whatever happened to the age of leisure? There was a time, not so long ago, when all the talk was of the microchip liberating us from the tyranny of the office.

We would all wear brightly coloured leisurewear, shell suits or some other hideous casual garment, travel in electronic buggies and have lashings of free time. Somehow, it never came to pass. As we approach the end of the century, there seems little sign that the dream is poised to become a reality.

Instead, job insecurity and the fear of unemployment has meant for many longer, more punishing working hours, and weekends lost as tensions of the office spill into the home. For many, change and insecurity can seem the only constants.

Little wonder, then, that early retirement appears so attractive an option to so many people who, a decade ago, would have considered themselves at the prime of their careers. Just how attractive is reflected in recent figures from

the Department of Social Security, which reveal a remarkable alteration in working patterns over the past 30 years. In 1975, 90 per cent of 55 to 65 year-old men were still in full-time work; by 1995, the figure had dropped to 60 per cent. The department calculates that more than 60 per cent of the male working population, and 41 per cent of working women retire from full-time work before reaching the official age of retirement.

Behind these figures lie not only changes in working patterns, of course, but also a profound shift in family life. The rapidly rising divorce rate, and increasing numbers of second families, the growing trend among women for delaying childbirth until they are established in their career, along with the difficulties of juggling parenthood and a full-time job all have a part to play in the contemporary

shift in attitudes to work. Patrick Gratton, chief executive of the Third Age Challenge Trust, which offers information and advice to the newly retired, has watched the emergence of a new approach to early retirement, with many people in their twenties and early thirties no longer expecting to work beyond the age of 50, and structuring their career accordingly.

"People's working careers are increasingly being squeezed into a 25-year period between the ages 25 and 50," he says, "and they are planning accordingly. What the trends seem to be pointing to is that, depending on the sector of the economy they are working in, people reach their career peak between about 28 and 38. That is when their earning potential is at its greatest. After that things begin to slip a bit. That's why it is so vital to think and plan

ahead for early retirement, especially as it is increasingly being forced on many people by companies downsizing."

Charles Handy, who explores the dramatically changing culture of work and organisations in books such as *The Empty Raincoat* and *The Age of Unreason*, left his full-time job as warden of St George's House study centre in 1981, when he was only 49, to pursue what he calls a portfolio life.

"Although I didn't have any pension money or financial security, I wanted to escape the world of organisations and pursue a portfolio life, doing a range of different things," he says.

"I'd worked in an oil company, and as a professor of management development at the London Business School and felt ready to do something completely different. I'd had enough of organisations, of

travelling to and from the workplace. So I asked myself what I wanted to do, what I was good at and constructed a life around that."

"I was lucky to have a very supportive wife, my two children were at school, but one was at a state school and the other had a scholarship at a public school, so they weren't too much of a problem. I had no source of income, but I was delighted to be free."

Handy says that people working in organisations are increasingly preparing themselves for two distinct phases in their careers: one in which they are part of the organisation and another, equal or even longer period of, say, 25 years when they are retired from it.

"This is a quite new phenomenon in society: most people used to see retirement as a period of no more than ten years, but now it is more likely to be 25 years. Of course, all this is good news, if you want it and have prepared for it. My own view is that early retirement can set you free."

"The third age is the time of life when you tend to have more disposable income: your spending needs go down, the children are off your hands

and your mortgage is largely paid for. Away from the worries of work, you have complete control over your life, where you live and what you do. You can also set limits on how much money you want to spend — the lower those limits the more relaxed you are."

These sentiments are echoed by Clive Burton of the Association of Retired Persons. "Early retirement is like life itself — it's up to you what you make of it. If you keep mentally and physically active, the third age can be one of life's most rewarding phases, representing the first real opportunity to live life the way you want to live it. Travel, education and charitable work all

become exciting opportunities open to the older person with time to explore new avenues and social options."

Patrick Gratton identifies two main categories among early retirees: those who plan carefully for retirement and those who have it forced upon them. The first group are wealthy, have excellent occupational pensions and a range of outside interests.

To them early retirement offers not only an opportunity for self-expression and enjoyment but release from the

relentless stress of modern executive life.

The second main group are often public sector workers, bureaucrats, civil servants or bank managers, for whom the notion of assured employment for life in return for loyal service was once a comforting certainty. For these people, sometimes referred to as the vulnerable middle class and whose self-worth is so bound up with their jobs, early retirement can force a traumatic but sometimes beneficial reassessment of their lives.

Even those who have found themselves mired in the routine of a stagnating career may fear the notion of a sudden change of direction, especially if they have no choice in the matter of their early retirement. The prospect of prolonged idleness and penury is an unappealing one, says Patrick Gratton, older workers are adapting well to finding new careers and challenges. "In the past ten years there has been a great shakeout in the manufacturing and service industries and in middle management. And hundreds of thousands of people in their forties and fifties are finding themselves being asked to take early retirement, even if they don't want it."

"As a result, there is a real desire for retirement not to be

seen as a defeat but as a path to new experiences, skills and challenges."

Anthony Sampson, who wrote about early retirement in his book *Company Man*, says early retirement can be hugely liberating, though he cautions against exaggerated optimism.

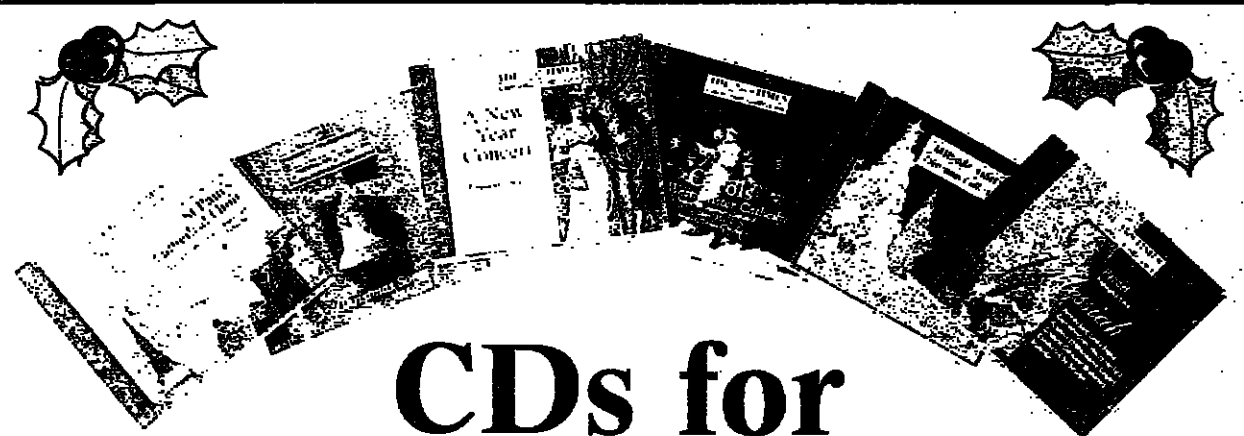
"Behind the language of 'downsizing' and 'reducing head counts' are some very individual human tragedies. I think forcing people to take early retirement, though welcomed by those who receive a lump sum to go, can be very cruel."

"The kind of people who enjoy early retirement usually have private means and many interests outside work. But for those people who have spent their entire careers climbing a hierarchy, it can't be very nice to have that hierarchy to collapse in on you."

But even survivors of collapsed hierarchies can find that hope, excitement and new challenges are to be found among the rubble. As Charles Handy says: "Increasingly people are finding that the organisation or office is not a home from home — they are stressful and uncertain places. The average job now lasts for just under six years. The old sense of loyalty has gone, because the company is no longer loyal to you, so it is not like the old days when you stayed for life."

"As we approach the end of the century, early retirement, or the portfolio life, as I prefer to call it, is opening our eyes to a new way of living that is creative, stimulating and challenging. I recommend it."

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WHAT TO PLAN FOR

- When choosing your retirement date, work out what your outgoings will be.
- Beware of hidden costs: you will have to spend more on heating, lighting, telephone, food, entertainment and, if you had a company car, transport.
- Obtain estimates of your state, occupational and personal pension income and compare the figure with your spending requirements.
- If you are being offered early retirement, find out if your union or staff association can negotiate better than average terms.
- If you fear you will miss work, try to phase in your retirement — experiment with semi-retirement or working as a consultant.

WHAT TO THINK ABOUT

- Plan your move carefully. It should be a change of direction, not an escape down a blind alley.
- Make sure you keep your family involved in your decisions. You are all in this together.
- Be prepared for feelings of bereavement as well as excitement when you leave your old career.
- Identify your weak spots. Life beyond the office can be lonely and stressful.
- Work hard at filling in the gaps on your CV. You may need it.
- Keep abreast of your new field of interest before you make your move.
- Don't act your age. You may be older than your new co-workers, but you are the new boy now.
- Work out ways of making your old skills relevant to your new job.

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Running a caring company

Frances Cook, 45, is managing director of Sanders & Sidney, an agency which helps redundant executives to find work. She left her previous job when the company was being taken over. She is married with two daughters, and lives near Chelmsford, Essex.

I WAS a trading director for a food company, when it was acquired by another company in 1986. I didn't want to end up doing something I didn't like, so I left. I met the then boss of Sanders & Sidney at a party and he invited me to join the company. I trained as a consultant, opened offices in Bristol, Cardiff and Swindon, and now six years later, I'm running the company. The change made me realise how good it is to be involved in

a world which takes people who have undergone difficult experiences, and help them to gain a new lease of life.

When I left my old job, people thought I was mad to give up on a world in which I had been such a success. But the hours were long. I travelled a lot and was under pressure to produce profits. I now work in a very caring, flexible organisation. I encourage people to work sensible hours, and to work from home if they prefer.



In search of the Good Life

Wendy Chilcott, 32, and her partner Steve Newman, 33, run their own PR company. They have decided to close it at the end of this year and, instead, run a smallholding in Kent or Sussex. They live near Tunbridge Wells and have a baby daughter.

STEVE and I set up our company, Gals Communications, in 1990. We have been extremely successful and have looked after several big clients. However, both of us speculated about giving it up, because the company dominated our lives. The crunch came in January this year, when I had a baby. I had planned to work fewer hours, but didn't actually stop completely, because I still needed to be fully involved in the company. After

three months I arranged for a childminder to help out, but it was at that point that we decided it was time to sell.

We intend to buy a smallholding, breed ducks and chickens, grow our own vegetables and possibly keep sheep and pigs. We will live off these, and possibly sell any surplus. It sounds like a Good Life fantasy, but we made a thorough business plan before reaching the decision.



An escape into the toybox

Tony de Rivaz, 43, was a corporate finance specialist until two years ago, when he opted for voluntary redundancy and set up his own toymaking business. He is married with four children aged between 4 and 13, and lives in St Albans, Hertfordshire.

THE company I was working for underwent a downsizing in 1994 and 1995. I took voluntary redundancy and got a quite good settlement, which gave me the time to think about fulfilling two ambitions. The first was to invent something, the second was to set up my own business. For the past five years, I had been mulling over the design of a children's building block set, so I decided that I would pursue it. My wife was very

supportive about my decision. I decided to commit myself to getting some toy kits made up, so everyone knew I was serious, but I also needed a bit of luck. I managed to interest Harrods in the idea and that gave impetus to the project.

Occasionally, I thought "What the hell are you doing?", but since the product has been embraced with open arms, my confidence has been higher than it's ever been.

Why it's never too late to switch careers

Colin Webb explains the reasons why he sought a new challenge before settling for a bus pass and a cosy pair of slippers.

Retirement, as a politician once said, is all very well — as long as you have a job to go to. Otherwise it means walking the dog, pruning the roses, spending more time with the crossword, continual golf and reading all those books. Well, yes, that's fine for those who like it, but not for me just yet. I think I will actually retire in perhaps another ten years. I have a job to go to — a late career change instead.

After 35 years in newspapers, which seek to focus on society's problems and draw conclusions strategically, I wanted to get out and get closer to some of those individual problems. And to help, in some way, tactically to draw some of them to a conclusion. In other words, to get more directly involved in life.

Before my far-off retirement, there is a lot to cram in. This is refreshment, reinvigoration, the chance to earn a crust and satisfaction in some very different work.

So what has life to offer those of us in the mid-fifties (57 in my case) before the slippers, the bus pass, cheap cinema matinees and the afternoon siesta? What fresh and refreshing challenge to keep us going? For me it was a conscious, careful decision this year a) to leave work I loved before I stopped enjoying it and b) to fulfil a long-held interest in mediation. Not counselling, not marriage guidance — just helping couples who are going through separation and/or divorce to deal with the inevitable distress and the after-effects with as little pain as possible. How different from work so far: Editor of the evening newspaper in Cambridge, deputy editor of *The Times*, and Editor in Chief of the Press Association — not ever even an agony aunt.

Spending a morning in a quiet room in Camberwell working with the anguish and bitterness of a couple whose marriage is ending, and getting them to try to agree the best arrangements for their children, is a far cry from the detached printed word. But it is not unusual for us late career changers to do what seems like a complete U-turn.

The perception of these changes is that they tend to be quite dramatic, but not necessarily traumatic, especially if you go about it the right

way, for the right reasons. The right way? I got, and kept, my family involved when I started to go down this new path, two years ago. Such support and encouragement is essential. And my family saw the benefits too — I have more time to take chores off them, cook, give them time and attention too. These, by design, become higher priorities.

Prepare your family, though, for some personality changes. In my case the assertive and authoritarian manager has become, I am told, someone who listens, discusses, checks out wishes and shares decision-making.

The right reasons? Without them, the change is not a positive move in a selected new direction, but is simply an escape from an old and now boring routine. And think what message that sends to those you leave behind. You are, after all, not "getting a life" — just getting a new one.

Do not ignore the finances. I talked to the taxman about allowances for expenses on vocational training and textbooks. The pensions advisers laid out the figures. Consult widely. Write down the things you are good at; write your CV and look at the gaps, the things you will need to know before you make your move. I did the research for more than a year before I made the commitment for serious re-training. I kept up to date with my new field of interest and stayed in touch with those already in it, talking to the experts in the field.

Do not assume you are God's gift to your co-workers, just because you have vast experience in your old world. They are younger, shrewder, wiser in your new chosen world. They may respect your achievements, enjoy your stories and name-dropping about your other life — but those things are not very relevant to the serious business in hand.

Of course you can bring some skills. In my case, that means handling publicity, writing articles, editing the national mediation newsletter, preparing marketing leaflets for a new grouping of lawyers and family mediators which seven youngsters and I are forming.

Play to your strengths, but make yourself useful. Be aware of your weak spots. The psychological stresses of any job loss can be severe ending a career that has spanned nearly a working lifetime is almost a bereavement in itself. It is important to make sure that it is not a personal suicide instead. So, stay alive and stimulated. And keep that CV up to date with all these new experiences and skills. Who knows what the next late career change will be?

Additional reporting by Anjana Akaya and Bridget Harrison



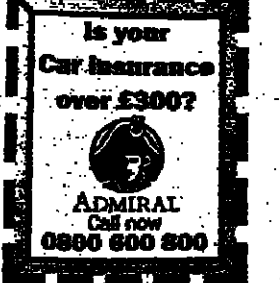
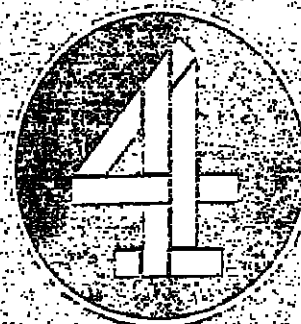
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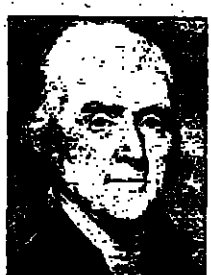
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THEATRE
Siobhan Redmond
treads the boards in
Stratford-upon-Avon
for a new *Much
Ado About Nothing*
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



BOOKS
*The Long Affair:
Jefferson and the
French Revolution*
is chronicled by
Conor Cruise O'Brien
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

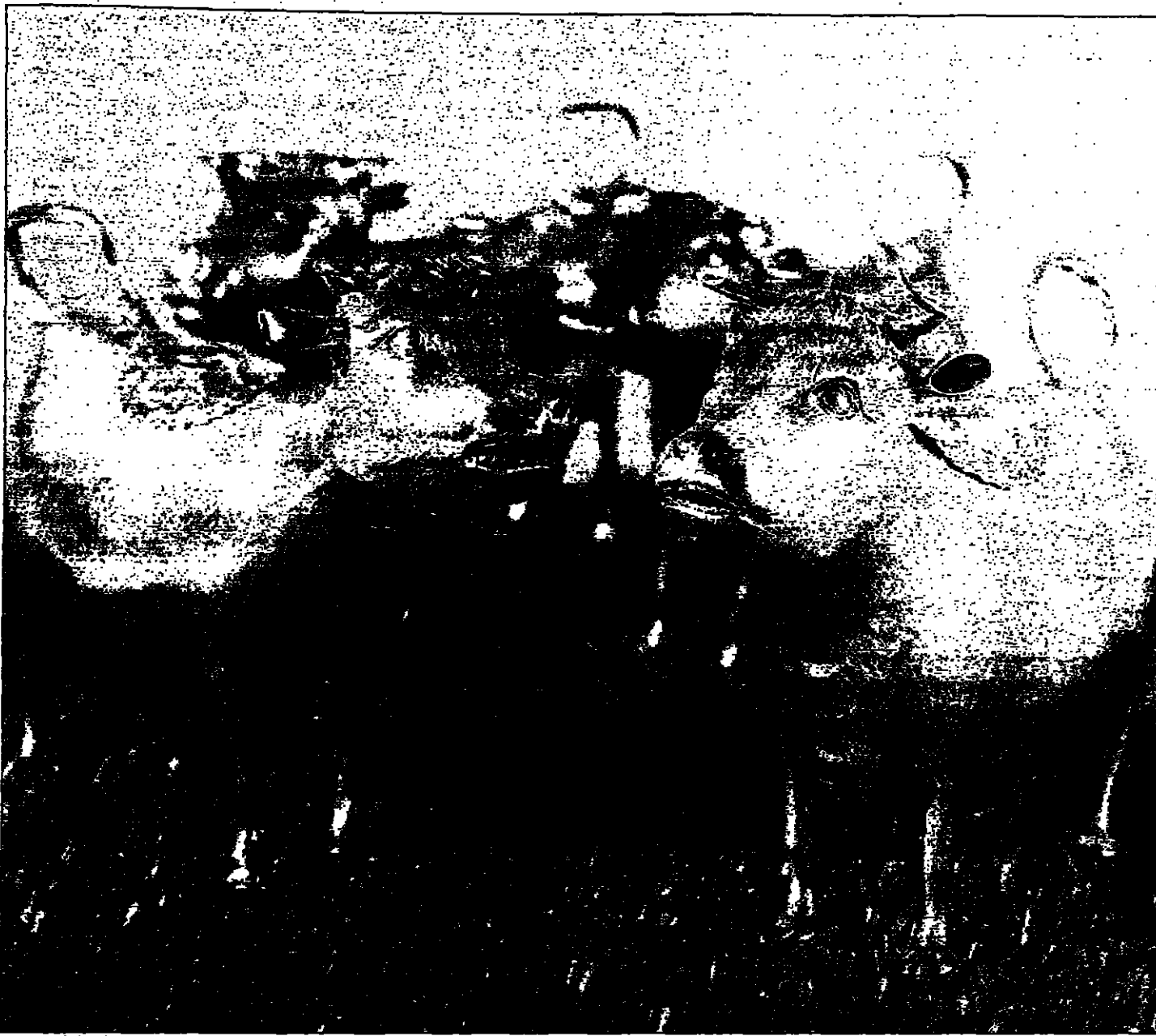


FILMS
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Harron's *I Shot
Andy Warhol* opens
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



OPERA
Diving tonight
Bizet's tuneful
The Pearl Fishers
returns to the Coliseum
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2



Enough to have Bertie Wooster helping police with their inquiries: English 18th-century cow creamers bearing the mark of John Schuppe

New setting for the silver family

From this week the Victoria and Albert's treasure trove will be seen as never before. Alison Beckett reports

When Charles II gave his mistress Nell Gwyn a silver snuff box, the trinket was more than just a love token: silver was often used as currency. Luckily Nell did not need to have the King's silver melted down to make ends meet, and the tiny box is now among the most endearing treasures in the Victoria and Albert Museum's new Silver Galleries.

The galleries are made up of five rooms, restored at a cost of £2 million to their Victorian splendour. Painted ceilings, columns covered in majolica tiles and decorative wall friezes — not to mention the specially developed lighting with the soft effect of candles — help to show off the 1,200 pieces which date from 1300 to the present day.

The redisplay masterminded by curator Philippa Glanville is all thanks to an anonymous English collector who arrived three years ago to collect a piece he had lent to the *Sporting Glory* exhibition. He was horrified that the exhibition had failed and been taken off early. He said the galleries looked terrible, utterly dreary, and decided to help. He generated a huge gift which sparked others, including £500,000 from the Wolfson Trust, and within little more than a year work was under way.

Now the Merode Cup, made for the royal court in Flanders 600 years ago, can be seen as never before — not as just an elegant silver gilt beaker and cover, but as an exquisite piece of art. Ingenious fibre optics bring the enamelling to life, like sunlight streaming through a stained glass window.

Early silver is particularly rare, because so much was melted and recycled, either for money or fashion. Probably the earliest item in the galleries is a drinking horn believed to have been given to the Pusey family by King Canute and mounted at the beginning of the 14th century.

Most of the later pieces are English, such as the elaborate 18th-century tableware of Paul de Lamerie, made when dinner was the place to display one's wealth and taste. Perhaps the most spectacular centrepiece, however, is a sculpture of camels and palm trees, topped with a little bowl for fruit, loaned by the Montefiore Trust and contemporary with the building of the galleries in the late 1860s.

The newest stars include the conceptual artist Robert Rauschenberg with his unplayable trumpet and Johannes Kuhnert, who incorporates other materials with silver in domestic objects of startling shapes and colour combinations.

Unusually, the galleries include both a discovery area — in which silver pieces can be examined through the bars of a cage — and a display of fakes. Normally diffident about admitting to owning any fakes, the V&A has swallowed its embarrassment because they are so useful for comparison.

And some are stunning, like the silver gilt figure of the Virgin and Child which long had pride of place in the galleries as French, made about 1400. Recent metallurgical tests have proved it to be 10th century, the longer having used a 14th-century ivory statuette as a model.

Caddy enough, examinations carried out on a silver gilt chess set, presented to the museum years ago and widely considered a 1930s forgery, show quite the opposite. The pieces, hastily relocated elsewhere in the galleries, were reputed to have been given by Nell to her King, but the story and the set both seemed too good to be true.

● The Silver Galleries, Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 0PZ (0171-938 8441) reopen on Wednesday

● The Times will be running a daily series on selected items from the collection, beginning tomorrow

THEATRE: Tudor machinations in an authentic setting; madness brought to book; Irish epic

Henry and his turbulent priest

Where better to present a play about England's most famous cardinal than in the city of his birth and at the theatre named after him, where the programme is produced by the Wolsey Press? Also where, if he had held on to power for a few more years, the school he founded to rival Winchester might have become as famous as Eton.

Two women brought Cardinal Wolsey down: Catherine of Aragon refused to have her marriage to King Henry annulled, and Anne Boleyn resisted the King's attempts to make her his mistress, replying in effect, "queen or nothing". She became queen and Wolsey became nothing, inspiring Shakespeare to write the celebrated farewell scene that will be heard from next week at Stratford, when the rarely performed *Henry VIII* enters the repertoire.

Writing a good historical play is no easy job. Unlike Shakespeare's contemporaries we do not go to the playhouse to learn our history, although we may find its odder byways interestingly unfamiliar. But Judith Cook's play is a march down the main highway. Here come all the usual suspects in their flat, feathered hats and court-card headresses, the aristos jealous for their privileges, Thomas Cromwell scurrying about his business, messengers criss-crossing the Channel — "Deliver this to His Holiness!"

Actors even step out of character to provide historical background, to which Caroline Smith's direction lends a jaunty touch by presenting deaths and voyages as cartoon jokes.

Cook's particular route-map has its individuality, drawing on the early Tudor disbeliefs that a woman could rule a realm, supporting this by making her male characters denigrate women's ability to deal with anything outside hearth and home, and finally, with Henry demanding a solution to his Great Matter, showing Wolsey shake his head in dismay that it should be two women who have outwitted him.

Smith sets this parable of

**The Devil's
Cardinal
Wolsey, Ipswich**

male foolishness on a wide stage, extended further sideways along wooden balconies. From these vantage points actors observe the drama below, and beneath one of the balconies a consort of woodwind plays 16th-century hits. High marks to the production for excluding *Greensleeves*.

With his round, unsmiling face peering out from under his red cap, Michael Tudor Barnes (fortuitous middle name) presents Wolsey as Cardinal Fix-it and is not

given the opportunity or the language to reveal impulses any deeper than pride.

Matt Wilkinson plays the King throughout as a spoilt teenager, which he is when the play begins but 25 years later should be something far more terrifying, the spoilt tyrant. Instead, his anger sounds too much like Aguecheek.

I suspect the author was less interested in him than in his first two Queens (Jane Arden, Julia Marsen), both played with spirit, and Arden touchingly showing Catherine's unbending defiance. Thus was the Church of England founded. Perhaps the Devil had the last laugh after all.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Damned scribble scribble

**Imperfect
Librarian
Young Vic**

ON A stage that looks like a giant sandwich, prised open by a single column of stacked books, a man lies prostrate, buried under the growing shelves. He is the Imperfect Librarian, blind for ten years, but able to absorb words by rubbing torn paper across his cheeks, licking pages, smelling mouldy bindings or chewing mouthfuls of parchment. Respect for books is not a prime concern in this forgotten bowl of a labyrinthine library.

In the background a voice recites the librarian's dislocated thoughts, his terror of the outside world, his musings about what the sea must be like based on what he has read. He drinks whisky, blunders about his Kafkaesque

prison, and puts on scratchy vinyl recordings of the opera singer Enrico Caruso.

From these unpromising beginnings, the young experimental company, Primitive Science, spins a tale as quirky and compelling in its way as Patrick Süskind's *Perfume*. But instead of a quest for the perfect scent, this is a quest for the perfect book.

Enter a check-suited intellectual, quizzing and curious, like a clown from an early Stoppard play. In his briefcase is the impossible book. "I have had all books in the way

Casanova had all women." Then he touches it.

To us it is made of clear Perspex. But for Paul Cowan's shocked bibliophile its infinite pages fill the Young Vic Studio with roaring concertos, exotic Arabic music and soulful blues. Consumed by the desire to master this "monster", he is predictably brought to his knees. As if in sympathy a hand pops through the floorboards and fondles his bald head.

The joy of this simple, magical story, devised and directed by Mare von Henning, is the light-fingered madness of the piece. For a director who has spent much of his career wallowing in the angst-filled mud holes of conceptual playwrights such as Heiner Müller, this change of direction is as invigorating as a sea breeze.

In the second half we flip to a frustrated poet in another corner of the library. Here the stage is littered with balled fists of paper and splodges of ink, as Dan Jemmett's bedraggled poet struggles to write a single word. Again the same background voice (Sean Boyce) intones his delightfully constipated thoughts.

Clarity of performance is the decisive weapon. The transitions the actors make between interior monologues and their short bursts of charged dialogue are as seamless and manipulative as the music.

This will not appeal to populist tastes, but Primitive Science is one of that all too rare breed of experimental companies: it realises it has a licence to entertain as well as fail. And, at the moment, Primitive Science is failing brilliantly.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Lyrical setting of Yeats

IN HIS time, director Michael Scott has produced everything from musicals to grandiose versions of Irish classics. *Luke Clancy* writes. Now with his production of Yeats's cycle of poetic dramas about the legendary Irish hero, Cúchulain, he seems to have combined his two interests to create an engaging entertainment that might have easily opened under the title "Cúchulain: The Musical".

Scott's production, at the RHA Gallagher Gallery, offers a fine dusting of sugar to the pill of W.B. Yeats's occasionally cryptic poetic dramas. Adding a solid band of traditional and rock musicians and setting some of the poet's lines to music, Scott sets off to recuperate the sometimes wordy plays with a style of theatre which manages to be

**The Cúchulain Cycle
Dublin**

rough, pacy and physical, while maintaining a sense of Yeatsian lushness.

If there is any danger that modernisation might turn the legends into a glib, vacant *Riverdance*, then the basement space in which the plays are performed — a set of interlinked, chilly concrete and breeze-block chambers — prevents things from leaning too close to snazzy. This is no easy task, as the opulent costumes of Synan O'Mahony involve ever-increasing doses of glitter and feathers. The overall visual impact suggests that Yeats's Celtic tales have been transported to a car park in a distant galaxy.

Such incongruities appear to be part of Scott's attempt to wrest Yeats's dramas free of their mouldy public image, and for most of the evening, he succeeds. Although some sections become rigidly operatic, Scott's chief influence is to offer a lifeline to a body of work which seems to grow more remote every day.

The *Cúchulain Cycle*'s greatest weaknesses occur in the casting. Some of the more prominent players, Hazel O'Connor (yes that Hazel O'Connor) and Derek Chapman cope well with the singing and half-singing of verse, but Feidhlim Hillary, as the eponymous warrior, is simply too superficial. In the smaller roles, Phyllis Ryan turns in a confident tipsy monologue about philistine actors, but Aongus Og McNally struggles as Cúchulain's long-lost son.

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Matthew Parris



■ Never tell anyone they are not wanted, made the wrong choice, came at the wrong time — even if it's true

Before a party last week to celebrate my dear secretary's first half-century at Westminster, I was asked for advice on a present for her. "Money," I said. "Or a gift voucher. I know the unceremonious Eileen too well to think she would find such a gift charming. If you actually buy her a present," I added, "the chances are it won't be right, and she'll ask if it can be exchanged."

She would tell you so in a matter-of-fact way. Eileen Wright is the kindest person in the world and not at all ungrateful. It is just that she takes a practical attitude to gifts. If it doesn't suit, she will say so.

In this she is wrong, though I will never persuade her of it. Wrong, not because her argument is unreasonable, but because human beings are. Many, including me, do feel hurt if a gift is rejected. Accepting that a world of Eileens would be a more sensible world, I also know that this is not a world of Eileens.

As a teenager I once gave my grandmother a lace tablecloth for Christmas. I loved Grandma very much and had saved up for the gift, which was expensive. When I gave it to her she said, "No, I don't need another tablecloth. Can't you take it back?"

Grandma, you see, was an Eileen. I knew she did not mean to offend, but I was tremendously upset. In the giving of a gift there is something deep and primitive; and in the rejecting of a gift there is something equally profound.

It is true, too, of returning a gift, or asking for it back. Realising that our relationship had not gone the way she had hoped, somebody once asked me to return a present she had given me. I agreed immediately. She had asked in the nicest and most tentative way, explaining that she noticed I had never really used it. This was true: I didn't actually like it. But I was so hurt by the request I found it quite difficult to speak to her, for years. She, too, like Eileen, is a good and kind person — perhaps better and kinder than me — but practical.

She made a mistake. There are certain rules that go completely against the grain of common sense, and it is as well to note them. Another friend, realising that a social engagement would involve his encountering me at a party he was attending with an elderly lady, asked if I would mind not acknowledging him. His companion did not know he was gay, and had conservative ideas on the subject. When she had mentioned my name, he had never admitted knowing me. Now the feared, the penny might drop and she would be concerned about him — though he and I are only friends.

I agreed readily, not to acknowledge him, but with huge internal anger. The

A world of Eileens would be more sensible, but this is not such a world

I (on reflection) would have felt in his place. I should simply have remained silent, and braced myself for the trouble. Never suggest to another person that his presence is unwanted, even when it is. Never fail to invite someone in, even when you pray he will not accept. Never suggest that another's call is inconvenient, however inconvenient it may be. Even if you have no chair to sit on or the cupboard is bare, never fail to invite an unexpected visitor to join you when a meal is going on.

Many years ago, when my mother was in hospital, a whip-round was being taken for a gift to one of the other patients: my mother did the collecting. The woman in the bed next to her seemed destitute and, as she was asleep, my mother used the excuse to miss her. But she found out, did not believe the excuse, and was hurt beyond words.

And just as the poor have their sensitivities, so do the rich. You will find if you can persuade a rich person to confide in you that however true they are with their generosity, they do notice who hangs back when bills arrive, and deeply resent the assumption that they will pay, even when they plan to. Conversely, if someone who has no money insists on paying for someone who is rich, it gives quite disproportionate pleasure.

What then, this Christmas, shall we give the man who has everything? The answer is that such people are the easiest to please. It does not matter what you give them. Needing nothing, and expecting nothing, they are pleasantly surprised at anything.

The Prime Minister's tactical position is tricky, but his constitutional duty is clear: no more private deals

Writing of the period of the fall of Nero, when four Roman Emperors died by the sword in 18 months, Tacitus commented: "Men's minds being set on civil wars, external matters were lightly regarded." This week's row over the debate on Europe has occurred because the Prime Minister is trying to damp down a civil war inside the Conservative Party. Both he and his critics have been distracted from the "external matters" by the Budget and the general election. Yet the European issue is indeed much bigger than any other.

Perhaps one should start by looking at the matter from John Major's point of view. He seems to have made a bad tactical mistake, yet he became Prime Minister, and has remained so for six years, because he is a very skilled political tactician. We should start with the assumption that he does not make tactical mistakes out of carelessness or lack of experience. When one surveys the parliamentary battlefield as it was last week, one can see the many difficulties he faced.

The big fact — always to be kept in mind — is that the Conservatives cannot afford an early general election. They have a nominal majority of one, which means that they are wholly dependent on the Ulster Unionist vote. It takes only one maverick Euro-sceptic or Euro-fanatic to bring them down, if they do not have David Trimble alongside them. Only when the Unionists go into its lobby is the Government safe. Current Conservative estimates are that a forced election in the next three months could result in a Labour majority of as many as 150 seats.

Last week the Unionists were not on board the Tory ship. Mr Trimble was worried about the Hume proposals, which were being kept secret, and sensed the possibility of John Major doing a deal with the nationalists to get an IRA ceasefire before Christmas. The Unionists are also under pressure in their own constituencies on the European beef issue, which is

Clarke could break the Government today

very important in Ulster politics. They would like an all-Ireland beef arrangement, under which Europe would let their beef be exported as BSE-free. This is difficult for John Major, on Irish, European and even on Scottish grounds. The Scottish beef producers, who have also suffered relatively few cases of BSE, would be furious if Ulster beef could be exported and Scottish beef could not.

John Major could not afford to lose a confidence vote, but could not rely on the support of the Unionists. He was also anxious about the pro-Europeans in his own party: he was worried both by Kenneth Clarke and about the backbench Europhiles. Kenneth Clarke is uneasily conscious that the Cabinet has swung against the single currency, in which he believes. He is very reluctant to make any further concessions, and so are the ten or so most fanatical Europhiles, the Hugh Delys group. If John Major had originally agreed to a debate on the stabilisation pact, he would have faced demands for reassurances from the Euro-sceptics, which Kenneth Clarke might have refused to give. He might have lost his Chancellor, or the Europhile votes, or he might have refused to give the necessary assurances and so lost the Eurosceptic votes.

John Major was boxed in. He even refused to see Sir Marcus Fox, the chairman of the 1922 Committee, not because he wished to be discourteous, but because he needed the weekend to find his way out of this box. He will be seeing Sir Marcus today, and in the last three days he has had the

opportunity to try to settle the Trimble and Clarke issues. He has been in touch with David Trimble, and may have reached an understanding on the Government's response to the Hume proposals, although Trimble denies it. In principle, the Unionists do not want to vote the Government out now, because they would not at all welcome the prospect of a large Labour majority. The reassurances to them would need to be enough only to give some comfort; the Unionists are not

William Rees-Mogg

in as strong a bargaining position as their numbers suggest.

John Major will also have talked to Kenneth Clarke. He certainly cannot afford to lose him. Whether or not the Clarke years as Chancellor will look good to the historians, they do at present look good to the electorate. Leaving aside his views on Europe, Kenneth Clarke is the Conservative Party's best election asset. If he were to go, the Conservatives would be back to the forecast of a Labour majority of 150.

Kenneth Clarke has decided to make a statement in the House today, partly in response to the *Sunday Times* story about the undisclosed documents, partly no doubt in re-

sponse to the needs of the Prime Minister. We do not yet know what he will say, or what form of debate will follow. At best, he could reassure the doubtful, but if he yields no real ground he could make things even worse. A confidence motion could be the consequence.

The final point that John Major has to settle is how small and innocuous a debate he can now get away with. He will have to accept a fudge: it will look like a retreat; he will be pretending it is not a U-turn. Marcus Fox will be the best guide on that point; he knows how strong Tory backbench feeling now is. If his talks with David Trimble, Kenneth Clarke and Marcus Fox have all reached a satisfactory conclusion, John Major will be able, once again, to walk out warily into the parliamentary minefield. Of course one of the mines may explode this week; no one can be sure.

I feel much sympathy for John Major. The role of a Prime Minister with a split party and a nominal majority of one is not to be envied. But his strategic position is much harder to defend than his tactical one. However much one can sympathise with his immediate difficulties, the attempt to avoid a proper parliamentary debate on the proposals for the stability pact is outrageous. Britain has passed the point at which vital decisions on Europe can be taken privately and slipped through quietly. Neither in Parliament nor among the public does the trust still exist which might allow that to happen. Even the latest decision of

the European Court on the 48-hour week, which John Major so much resents, shows how safeguards against EU decisions can be eroded.

The immediate issue is how far Britain would be subject to the stability pact of the European monetary union even if we did not join the single currency. Parliament wants to debate that before the meeting of European finance ministers discusses the German proposals for the stability pact on December 2. Although no binding decisions are likely to be taken at this meeting, the whole European process is one of decisions which become binding by stages. If John Major himself has been outraged by the European Court's decision to invalidate one opt-out, how can he expect Parliament to take on trust the effects of the proposed stability pact on another opt-out? The fears are not fanciful. The Treasury itself has already concluded that "the current proposals would not be acceptable to Parliament".

So far as Britain is concerned, the Franco-German alliance, the Commission and the European Court have destroyed the relationship of trust. They have behaved in the 1990s more like deceitful enemies than honest allies. That is why the British suspicion of all European arrangements has reached the present fever pitch. John Major must bear his share of the blame. He signed the Maastricht treaty, he whipped Maastricht through the Commons and Lords, he refused a Maastricht referendum. He said it would be a betrayal to leave the exchange-rate mechanism the weekend before he left it. He black-balled the federalist Dehaene as President of the Commission and accepted the equally federalist Santer. The British do not any longer trust the European institutions; they do not trust John Major, and they distrust the Prime Minister's tactical victories on Europe has proved to be a strategic defeat for Britain.

The House will have its say

Peter Riddell says John Major has turned a skirmish into a confrontation

Walter Bagehot wrote 130 years ago that one of the main functions of the House of Commons was "to express the mind of the English people on all matters which come before it". So it remains today of the British people. It is that central "expressive function" of the Commons which Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, has been defending: which the Government has brushed aside in its reluctance to allow an early debate on the floor of the House on monetary union; and which it is now being forced to recognise.

Much nonsense has been uttered about the whole affair. It does not amount to a great constitutional clash between the legislature and the executive, as some excitable sceptics have claimed. In strictly legal terms, the Government has probably been in the right. It has followed the letter of the rules. But the spirit is what matters. John Major has turned what should have been a minor skirmish with the hard-core sceptics into a confrontation with a wide range of MPs, with an embarrassing and wholly unnecessary climbdown in prospect.

Parliament has many faults, but one of its main strengths has been its capacity for discussing the issues of the day. When a large number of MPs want to debate something, they should be able to do so. It is as simple as that. Ministers are right that it was in order for the three European papers to be referred to a small committee for scrutiny, after which they are usually voted on "forthwith" by the Commons. But the full House does sometimes debate these European papers, as on fisheries policy a year ago, and as the Select Committee



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

tee on European Legislation unanimously recommended this time. But this was rejected by the Government, and the relevant committee voted last Wednesday not to "take note" of the documents.

Mr Major claims that holding the committee debate amounted to the necessary scrutiny. No one need worry, he says, since no "final" decisions will be taken by the meeting of European finance ministers a week today, and the Commons will have a full debate before the heads of government summit in Dublin in mid-December. That is true; and, as Kenneth Clarke will say in the Commons this afternoon, Britain will enter what is known as a "scrutiny reserve", since Parliament has not given its approval and any report will be non-binding. But the finance

ministers could still determine the broad terms of the leaders' talks at the full summit.

The sceptics are suspicious that Mr Clarke is trying to commit Britain to interference by Brussels in fiscal policy even if sterling does not join a single currency. These fears are exaggerated and the two documents leaked over the weekend are irrelevant, since the proposals in one have been rejected by Britain. The draft stability pact does suggest that surveillance and co-ordination of budgetary policies should apply to non-joiners, but this refers to provision of information rather than fiscal decisions. There are no sanctions apart from a reprimand from the Council

of Ministers. But the sceptics want a more explicit reference to Britain not being affected.

The Government's response is unsatisfactory to pro-Europeans as well as to sceptics, because it ignores the clear cross-party view of the House, expressed by the Select Committee on European Legislation, by last Wednesday's vote and, since then, by a wide range of MPs. When an ultra-loyalist such as Sir John Stanley is critical, it is time for ministers to notice. It also represents disregard for the conventions, if not the precise rules, of the House.

That is where the Speaker's intervention is significant. She did not, as was widely reported, accuse the Government of undermining the "integrity of the House". What she did do stress her concern about "maintain-

ing the integrity of the House's procedures", with the clear implication that she meant the spirit as much as the letter. Miss Boothroyd, like her predecessor, Bernard Weatherill, has been worried by the decline in the House's public reputation. As the first two Speakers of the televised Commons, they have become the public faces of Parliament, and have received a large number of letters about the rowndness of Prime Minister's Questions and charges of sleaze.

Betty Boothroyd's occasional blunt interventions about the threat to the standing of the House have not gone down well with the more partisan Tories. For example, when the House returned in mid-October, she gave a statement echoing public worries about sleaze allegations and clearly supporting the provision of resources and powers for a full investigation. Her remarks helped to ensure that the current inquiry is both comprehensive and public, but she annoyed Tory whips, who had been hoping for a narrower investigation which would be over quickly.

There is a limited amount the Speaker can do. Like the monarch, she has the right to encourage and warn, in her case publicly as well as privately. But control over the timing and subject of debates lies mainly with the Government, apart from some Opposition-sponsored debates each session. Just as Lord Weatherill was irritated by a long implicit conspiracy between the two front benches not to hold a full debate on the miners' strike of 1984-85, so Miss Boothroyd believes important issues should be raised on the floor.

The Speaker does, however, have the power, an almost nuclear threat, to agree to a three-hour emergency debate. This is rarely used, and Mr Clarke's statement this afternoon — and the likely promise of a full debate later — should head off that possibility. The Speaker has played her part in ensuring that the Commons performs its "expressive function". The Government's calculated gamble that it could push the three documents through without full debate has failed — and quite right too.

Egg on face

LONG FACES over at *The Spectator*, where Kimberley Fortier, the elegant new publisher, is instituting a cultural shake-up. First on her list of innovations is restricting staff access to the drinks cupboard. The booze contained there is theoretically for *Spectator* lunches, parties, that sort of thing.

In recent months, however, certain members of staff had begun treating it as their private stash, not least Bruce Anderson, their heavy-weight political editor, who had been fishing stuff out as if from a Christmas hamper. Fortier denies rumours that last week, with Anderson out to lunch, she had the locks changed. But if she hasn't, there are fears that she yet may.

Another point of discussion among the staff there is the apparently falling eyesight of the former eggs minister, Edwina Currie. Last week she spotted a cartoon in the magazine promoting Baroness Thatcher's favoured outfit, *Aquascutum*. A weed-clad, saucy-looking black-haired lady with a come-hither look was flexing an umbrella above the caption "I'll

take six of your best please". "Obviously me," surmised the mistress of parliamentary bombast. "I'll phone for the original." Edwina was to be disappointed, for she was quickly informed that the cartoon depicted Education Secretary Gillian Shephard.



Kimberley Fortier: *Spectator* sports

● Look to your pearls, girls. Just as Hollywood men had got used to flashing diamond studs in their earlobes, fashion has moved on. The more discreet pearl stud is the accessory now, and actors are alternating white pearls with the more exotic black. Bruce Willis is said to be among the first to show off the new look.

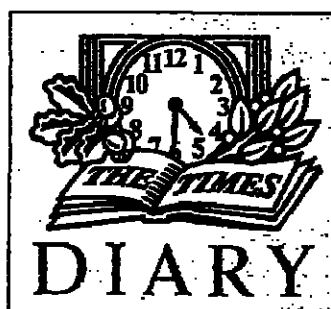
Huck fin?

THE NEW Governor of Arkansas, the Republican Jim Huckabee, is touring America trying to repair the damage Bill Clinton has done to the state's image.

"I want the world to know there's more to Arkansas than the five blocks around the courthouse in Little Rock," he says. "Good deer-hunting, for instance... Not that I myself hunt... A Republican Governor go out in the woods with 300,000 Democrats armed with high-calibre rifles? You joking?"

Real Jesus

A SPOOKY letter is wedged in the frame of the dressing-room mirror of Steve Balsamo, who plays Jesus in the retashed West End



musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*. It comes from one J.M. Balsamo, a septuagenarian of Gibraltarian extraction, who wrote after seeing Balsamo Jr on television and learning of his name. He wants to find out which branch of the clan Steve comes from. "I nearly fell off my chair when I saw your name and the part you were playing," wrote the old boy. "You won't believe it but my first name is Jesus." The two have arranged to meet after a performance soon.

● The Prime Minister is to receive advice on how to win the election from the nightclub owner Peter Stringfellow. A staunch Conservative, "Snake-hips" Stringfellow will be addressing a dinner for the Oxford University Tory Reform Group

tomorrow. "I'll be offering the PM a few tips, certainly," says the bottle-blond. "In my opinion he's a bit wobbly and losing his way, but he's the only man for the job." Major's breath must be bared.

Dog that tried

LAST WEEK saw the centenary of the death of Station Jim. Slough's celebrated railway collecting dog. During the 1890s, a number of stations featured a dog with a collecting box, but Jim is apparently the



Steve Balsamo, who plays Jesus, is to meet his namesake

only one still standing at his home station — albeit taxidermised.

During his short life — he died in harness aged only three — he collected more than £40, and mastered many amusing tricks. These included sitting in a chair with a pipe in his mouth, stamping on lighted matches (with a disapproving growl) and acting the part of a bandaged patient in St John Ambulance demonstrations.

Show birds

VICTORIA CHAPLIN, the third of Charlie Chaplin's five daughters, opens the circus show that she co-founded tomorrow at the Mermaid Theatre — but she is lucky that one of her key performers is still alive.

Louis, an African bee-eater, escaped from a dressing room and flapped off in the direction of Blackfriars the other day.

A search party returned empty-handed hours later. The next morning, however, the bird hopped in over the theatre doorstep, feathers barely ruffled. "I knew he wouldn't miss the opening," says his handler, Jessica.



Louis the errant bee-eater admires himself in the mirror, with his handler, Jessica

P.H.S



BACK TO REALITY

What the Chancellor needs to tell the House of Commons today

With the furore over Parliament's right to be properly consulted on European legislation, the Chancellor today, Kenneth Clarke, has volunteered himself for the parliamentary firing line today. The Chancellor, who has a positive taste for grapes, might have acted earlier had John Major not dithered for the very motives that made him refuse a Commons debate — his fear that Mr Clarke's pro-EMU instincts would betray him. It is a measure of the Prime Minister's self-induced peril that this now appears as the least of his worries.

Downing Street hopes that by enabling rebel MPs to grill the Chancellor today, they will settle for the offer of a full debate on EMU — but next month, rather than this Friday, the only day available before the December 2 meeting of EU finance ministers. The aim is to clear this week's headlines for the Budget, freeing the whips to rally the troops behind Central Office's campaign to "get back on message" with the Conservatives' economic success story.

That goal is, just, still within reach. But once again, Mr Major has made things needlessly difficult for himself by waiting until the quicksands were up to his waist before grabbing the rope. The decision to satisfy an aroused House of Commons comes ridiculously, damagingly, late.

The rescue mission will have to be correspondingly ambitious — far more ambitious than is suggested by Mr Clarke's reported intention to "correct misleading reports" and "reiterate" earlier assurances. He must also be a good deal more precise about Britain's negotiating intentions than he was in the letter which he circulated to all MPs last Friday. They will be satisfied with nothing less than guarantees not only with regard to the Government's respect for Parliament's rights of scrutiny, but on the substance of Britain's legal position outside future monetary union.

Before he can advance onto the main battleground, Mr Clarke has territory of his own to defend. He must convince MPs that he gave an entirely accurate and complete

summary to the Commons Select Committee on European Legislation of a report by the European Monetary Institute on the single currency and the proposed new European Monetary System. His response so far, that the new ERM will not be treaty-based, ducks the question at issue, which is whether he has kept MPs fully informed. In Parliament's present mood, he risks being found in contempt of the committee. His right course is to publish the relevant passages so that MPs can make up their minds.

Next, he must convince the House that nothing will be decided by the EU's Finance Ministers on December 2. He has already promised to enter a "scrutiny reserve", thus blocking the formal adoption of legislation until Parliament has given its assent. But that will not be enough to allay suspicions, and for good reason. In the words of Mr Clarke's own letter last Friday, Ecofin "is due to agree a report" on the draft directives for next month's summit; "political agreement could well be reached on them in Dublin"; and "legislative texts would then be finalised". In other words, this Ecofin could agree on substance; all that would be missing would be Dublin's blessing and the legislative rubber stamp. Rebel MPs suspect that this leaves Mr Clarke ample scope for nods and winks on the lines of "well, you know our views on these matters, but unfortunately we have to wait for Parliament's assent". The deals would be done.

Mr Clarke is adamant that none of these documents will affect Britain unless it joins the single currency. His opponents, pointedly referring to Britain's defeat in the European Court over the 48-hour week, say that to insulate the Government against all possible future legal challenges, guarantees must be set in stone now. To protect Britain's opt-out from EMU, they want each directive to contain an explicit statement that Britain will not be affected by regulations covering surveillance, monetary convergence or the EMU stability pact. All that is demanded is absolute clarity. Mr Clarke should meet that demand today. It would produce not just peace in his time, but peace with honour.

SPAIN IN THE FRONT LINE

Aznar is a modern leader for an increasingly modern country

The British Government does not know José María Aznar as well as it should. Spain's new conservative Prime Minister, who arrives for official talks in London on Wednesday, has been in office for only seven months. His occasional meetings with John Major have slipped into the interstices of European summits; hardly the best occasions for them to search calmly for common ground. And inevitably, after 13 years of Socialist rule in Spain, British diplomacy may also have become too used to the ways of Señor Aznar's predecessor, the quicksilver Felipe González.

Obedient to the pull of Spain's traditional magnets within the European Union, Señor Aznar has already been to see Jacques Chirac, the French President, and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor. Britain, with which Madrid has not always enjoyed smooth relations, now has the chance to put its concerns across to Señor Aznar, receiving, in turn, the Spanish Prime Minister's own account of his country's new ambition.

Spain today is in the European mainstream, and Britain has done well to recognise this. The new Government's priorities are to modernise Spain's foreign policy and economy. In the case of the former, it has done well to rid itself of that peculiar combination of overblown rhetoric and subservience to Germany that was such a feature of the previous Socialist Government's policies. Since the Popular Party came to power, Spain has made it clear that it wishes to be treated as a serious, independent player within the EU. While there is no doubt that it

favours greater European integration, Madrid can no longer be taken for granted by either Paris or Berlin. The significance of this has not been lost on Britain.

Furthermore, Spain's decision to opt for full integration into Nato's military command structure is an important strategic gain. Madrid has, effectively, taken charge of the EU's Maghreb policy, and pushed hard to see Europe's concerns over North Africa appropriately reflected in the Nato structure. There remain some problems with Britain here, mainly over the place of Gibraltar in a reorganised Nato, but there is no reason why Mr Major and Señor Aznar should not aim to finesse these differences.

Yet Señor Aznar's greatest contribution has so far been in the reforms his Government has introduced into the Spanish economy. Public spending has been reduced, public sector wages have been frozen, state enterprises have begun to be sold off, and radical labour reforms are promised. Spain's aim is to be in the first tier of European monetary union, and its fiscal and monetary policy has been driven hard by that objective. Few questions have been asked about whether EMU is necessarily good for Spain, the country with the highest rate of structural unemployment in Europe. EMU is seen in Madrid as a sort of panacea. It may prove otherwise. Competitiveness is Spain's new watchword, and in this respect it sees Britain as a model. Señor Aznar may not share Britain's doubts about the age of the euro; but that is all the more reason to give the subject a good airing this week.

LIFE AFTER THE BUS PASS

Early retirement can set the grey workhorses free

Retirement used to be defined as a door closing on working life. But in this new world of "the third age", it is becoming a choice of doors opening. The men and women who have taken early retirement and tell their stories on pages 20 and 21 are finding themselves new lives.

Our examples are perhaps the lucky ones. They have the skills, ambition and enterprise to take new paths in middle age. They also have jobs from which they can take early retirement. But their experience shows the way that the world of work is changing. Retirement used to be the penultimate rite of passage, leading to the bus pass, carpet slippers and an appointment with daytime television. A gold watch was presented to the loyal worker or company man when time-keeping had ceased to be important to him. Service officers who could not find jobs as bursars or secretaries of golf clubs took up gardening or golf. As Hazel Weiss said, after her husband retired as manager of the New York Yankees: "I married him for better or worse, but not for lunch." In this new world, company man is becoming portfolio man, changing jobs and activities throughout his career. So for him early retirement can be dramatic without being traumatic.

People are living longer as jobs are growing shorter and more of them are being done by computer and other machines. In 1910 only one in 20 of the population was aged more than 65. By 1994 they were more

than three in 20, and the proportion is rising. In 1910 27.2 per cent of the population was between 35 and 64, the ages for taking early retirement. By 1994 it was 35.8 per cent, and rising. In 1910 an employee took a job in an office or a factory, and expected to stay there until his retirement presentation, when his boss might make a joke that the company was not so much losing a worker as gaining a parking space.

The Department of Social Security has produced remarkable figures illustrating the change in British working patterns over less than a generation. In 1975, 90 per cent of 55 to 65-year-old men were still in full-time work. Twenty years later, the figure has dropped by a third. The department calculates that more than 60 per cent of the male working population and 41 per cent of working women retire from full-time work before reaching their official ages of retirement. Early retirement is becoming normal, not the exception.

Women now constitute half the workforce, and the world of work is adapting to new patterns of part-time and flexible working. The iron routine of 9-to-5, factory hooters and clocking on and off is dying, and being replaced by less rigid and more humane working practices. Employees are getting used to changing careers throughout their working lives. And early retirement will increasingly become a new chance and a challenge, not a defeat or a failure.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Single currency regulations demand further scrutiny

From Mr Christopher Gill,
MP for Ludlow (Conservative)

Sir, One might be tempted to suppose that the single currency (report and leading article, "The watchdog poolie", November 22) represents but the beginning of a process towards European integration rather than the end — to regard it as a foundation stone rather than as a keystone.

The foundations of a federal Europe are the Treaty of Rome, the Single European Treaty and the Treaty on European Union (Maastricht). Built upon these are the twin pillars of the European federal arch. On the one side all the appurtenances of statehood: the European anthem, the Commission, the Court of Justice, the flag and the Parliament; on the other side the building blocks are the common policies for agriculture, fisheries and so on.

This explains the frantic efforts now being made in the chancelleries of Europe to effect the single currency, without which the federal edifice will not be complete.

Those who value the freedom and independence of our nation must ensure that the vaulting ambition of

the European integrationists is brought down to earth.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER GILL,
House of Commons,
November 22.

From Mr Martin Howe, QC

Sir, Your leader, "The watchdog poolie", touches on my views about the European single currency "stability pact" regulations which would impose budget discipline on all participants.

If we exercise our right to remain outside the single currency the countries which intend to join the euro bloc fear they will be damaged by unfair competitive devaluation by Britain. Our export industries will be inside the single market but not subject to the disciplines of the single currency.

Those countries will have a strong political and economic incentive to induce Britain either to peg its exchange rate or to follow recessionary policies which would push up the pound against the euro. Therefore, caution should be exercised before our agreeing to any legal measures which could be used as tools for this purpose.

Extreme caution should be exercised where measures are proposed under qualified majority voting procedures, where Britain could find itself overridden on form and content.

Drafts exist of two proposed regulations. A third, outlined by the European Commission, would require countries remaining outside the euro bloc to submit "convergence programmes" to meet objectives on inflation and government deficits and give prospects for the exchange rate. The two draft regulations mainly apply to the countries that would participate in a single currency but they would commit us in principle to the third regulation applying to those that stay out.

The legal obligation (for whose breach, as your leader says, we could ultimately be fined) is to submit a programme rather than to follow a particular economic policy. But that obligation imposes strong pressure on us to pursue the policies laid down in the programme.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN HOWE,
8 New Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2,
November 22.

govern work practices in the UK. Imagine the fuss if, by majority voting, the North Europeans tried to pass a law abolishing the siesta.

Yours faithfully,
IMRE LAKE,
62 Regent's Park Road, NW1,
November 21.

From Mr P. E. Roe

Sir, Professor Sidney Pollard is surely wrong to assert (letter, November 14) that our present Government is the first to boast of low wages. The Labour Government of 1974-78 claimed that we had the lowest wages in Europe and that this was a triumph of prices and incomes policy.

At a press conference in 1977 in the British Embassy in Tokyo a Minister for Industry, touting for Japanese investment, was obliged to make this point several times because Japanese journalists, brought up to believe that socialism favours workers, could not believe their ears.

Yours faithfully,
P. E. ROE
(First Secretary (Scientific)),
British Embassy, Tokyo, 1974-78,
157 Verulam Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

48-hour ruling

From Mr N. J. Cooper

Sir, None of your correspondents of November 14 ("Welcome for benefits of Europe's 48-hour directive") addresses two fundamental arguments advanced by advocates of the directive: that shorter hours are necessary for health and safety and that they have no adverse effect on employment. Recent reports throw doubt on both these propositions.

According to *The Wall Street Journal* (Europe) (February 23, 1996), fatal occupational injuries in Britain were the lowest in Western Europe. In Germany they are five times those of the UK and in France nearly six, though working hours in both those countries are substantially less.

In June 1996, the EU's own Competitiveness Advisory Group urged flexibility in working hours, the reduction of welfare benefits and the lowering of non-wage labour costs throughout Europe as essential measures in combating unemployment.

Yours truly,
NEVILLE COOPER
(Chairman), The Top Management
Partnership Ltd.,
PO Box 10420, London W8 6GL.

Thatcher's speech

From Lord Parkinson
and Sir Tim Bell

Sir, We write with reference to your report yesterday headlined (later editions), "Advisers urged Thatcher to avoid row on Europe".

Neither of us were involved in any arguments with Baroness Thatcher over the content of the speech. Neither of us were part of her speech-writing team.

As we understand it, there was no plan to change the speech in the light of recent events.

Yours sincerely,
CECIL PARKINSON,
TIM BELL,
7 Hertford Street, W1
November 24.

Lottery appeal

From Sir Julian Critchley,
MP for Aldershot (Conservative)

Sir, You will have noticed on November 18 an answer to a parliamentary question that I tabled to the Heritage Secretary. I asked how many "scanners" have been bought out of lottery money, and her reply was "none".

The NHS is very short of "scanners" which are in constant use as a means of discovering the physical condition of patients, especially those with spinal complaints. They are very expensive machines.

Would it not be a sensible way to allocate money from the lottery — most of which seems to be spent on middle-class good causes — on a piece of medical equipment that would be of benefit to everyone?

Yours etc.,
JULIAN CRITCHLEY,
House of Commons,
November 19.

Otis's invention

From Dr A. R. MacDiarmid-Gordon

Sir, Your report today ("The European quiz with a £36,500 prize") perpetuates the understandable, but mistaken, belief that Hyram Otis invented the passenger lift; he did not. What Otis did invent was a rather safety device whereby a lift with a broken cable is prevented from going into free-fall.

The obvious advantage of this device, demonstrated for the first time in public in 1854 by Otis himself standing on a platform while his cable was cut, led to widespread uptake of the passenger lift, especially those produced by Otis's company.

Yours faithfully,
A. R. MACDIARMID-GORDON,
19 Lincoln Grove,
Sale, Cheshire,
November 18.

Graphology and health

From Mrs Bernadette Keefe

Sir, Dr Thomas Stuttaford includes in his symptoms of Parkinson's disease (Body and Mind, November 21) "the handwriting becomes even smaller and more spidery".

Handwriting is a visible and tangible result of impulses from the brain and central nervous system. The behaviour of the pen on the page can be studied in minute detail by a qualified graphologist to assess the psychological and often the physiological stability of the writer. Ethically graphologists cannot make any medical prognosis, nor should we. Often, however, indications of ill-health appear in handwriting before they manifest themselves bodily, so a medical check

might be suggested. A sample of handwriting offers a permanent specimen for study — it does not require the presence of the writer, and, if necessary, can be studied after their death.

Graphological studies have already been carried out in American cancer research, and I strongly suspect that the future collaborative research into circulatory problems and heart disorders will produce worthwhile knowledge for this important health issue.

Subtle clues to the human condition are there on the page in front of us — if we care to study them.

Yours faithfully,
B. KEEFE (Governor),
The London College of Graphology,
Administration Centre,
3 Newport Road, SW13,
November 21.

Army manpower

From Mr C. M. Mudie

Sir, It was with great sadness that I read your report "Army in line for pay boost" (November 20). Having served as a member of the Armed Forces for ten years and then found myself a victim of compulsory redundancy, I find the ideas being put forward to encourage soldiers to stay in perpetuous.

As one who attained the highest possible rank within the time served and an outstanding record of achievement, I do not believe that offering cash incentives is the way to train members of the Armed Services, who undoubtedly will see active service within the current global political situation.

There is at the moment a severe lack of experience within the Armed Forces,

and this is in my view solely due to the wrong soldiers, sailors and airmen being made redundant. Surely if more attention had been paid to the quality of the servicemen and women who were made redundant we would not have this current shortage of skills and manpower.

To have an Army with large numbers of personnel is not enough. We need professional, highly motivated individuals who are career-minded, not just interested in money. All I and many of my colleagues wanted to do was to serve Queen and Country and yet we were to find ourselves looking for alternative careers.

Yours faithfully,
C. M. MUDIE,
82 The Broadway,
Sandown, Isle of Wight,
November 20.

Tank memories

From His Honour T. R. Heald

Sir, I read with interest Alistair Horne's article on tanks ("Challenge for an old soldier", Weekend, November 16). He omits to mention, however, as do most military historians, one British tank, the Comet, which filled the gap between the Cromwell and the Centurion with distinction.

In January 1945 the 11th Armoured Division was re-equipped with Comets. They proved their worth in the Division's advance from the Rhine to the Baltic, being in action almost every day and advancing 200 miles in a month. The Comet was mechanically reliable, well armoured and with an excellent 77mm gun. It did not "brew up" like the Sherman.

I and the members of my troop were indebted to the Comet's sterling qualities, which were to be further developed in the Centurion. It should not be forgotten in the history of British tanks.

Yours faithfully,
TOM HEALD,
Rebber House, 108 Nicker Hill,
Keyworth, Nottingham.

From Eur Ing David K. Brown,
RCNC

Sir, Alistair Horne's article on the main battle tank invites comparison with the demise of the battleship. By mid-1943 the Board of Admiralty had decided that the aircraft carrier was the future capital ship despite the fact that the carrier was far more vulnerable to torpedoes, bombs and shells than the battleship. The battleship died because its weapons had a range of about 15 miles, those of the carrier about 200 miles.

The vulnerability of the tank is likewise a secondary consideration and its future depends on having a capability which cannot be matched by any other system. The tank is still probably the only effective way of dealing with a dug-in machinegun protected by barbed wire.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID K. BROWN,
9 Park Lane, Bath,
November 18.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Financial crisis at British Museum

From Sir Nicholas Goodison,
Chairman of the National Art Collections Fund

Sir, I would like to add my voice to those who are worried about the imposition of admission charges at the British Museum (Arts, November 6; letters, November 21).

Before we abandon the principle of free access in our rush to provide a short-term solution to the British Museum's complex financial problems we must ask some fundamental questions. For example, would potential benefactors be discouraged from supporting the museum? And can we as a society afford to discourage in any way the pursuit of knowledge, or deprive anyone of the opportunity to benefit from such a rich store of inspiration?

A decision to charge is likely to have profound implications for the cultural life of the nation. If the British Museum is forced to take this step the pressures on other cultural institutions to follow suit will be almost irresistible.

At the very least the Government, which is apparently keen to see admission charges imposed, should provide parliamentary time for the issues to be fully addressed.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS GOODISON,
Chairman,
National Art Collections Fund,
7 Cromwell Place, SW7,
November 22.

From Professor Emeritus
Walter Elkan

Sir, Admission charges are not the only alternative to free entrance to the British Museum or the National Gallery. At present, six million visitors to the BM put less than £300,000 into its collecting boxes each year.

Instead of donation-chests, let there be people doing the collecting and the amount is likely to rise steeply. It is much more difficult to ignore people than a donation chest. Secondly, have a suggested amount, but keep it modest — £1 perhaps, and £2 for a family: £1 will not deter any visitor, especially if it is made clear that it really is a donation, not an entrance charge, and that no one will be pressed to pay if they do not wish to.

The BM and the National Gallery have many well-wishers and friends. They would be delighted to help and would do so without pay. None would want to put in a 40-hour week; but one or two mornings or afternoons on a regular basis?

The BM would probably have to employ and pay one person to organise it all, but volunteers over retirement age in London would not even have to have their travel costs reimbursed, thanks to free passes on London Transport.

One does not need to have someone collecting all the time: if a volunteer fails to turn up it is not the end of the world. Meanwhile, since no one would be deterred from visiting the BM, sales receipts from the shop and cafeteria would remain unaffected, and the museum would be perhaps £3 million a year better off without turning any prospective visitors away.

Yours truly,
WALTER ELKAN,
98 Boundary Road, NW8.

From Mr Geoffrey Turner

Sir, If Sir Robert Sainsbury has stood in the entrance hall of the British Museum, or the National Gallery, or the V&A recently he will have seen cohorts of the international tourist army. They have come to London to see the sights and expect to pay a modest entrance charge to see them.

Last weekend, I was in Amsterdam. I went to the Rijksmuseum and paid its entrance fee, having expected to do so. I can remember a number of paintings which pleased me, but not what the entrance fee was.

If the BM trustees worry about access by poor scholars, let them offer free entry one day a week. For the rest, let London do what other major European cities do — charge the tourists a proper fee.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY TURNER,
44 Roundwood Lane,
Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Record catch

From Sir Richard Hanbury Tenison

Sir, Your report (November 21) of Mr Bond's record catch mentions the "next biggest freshwater fish ever caught in Britain, a 64lb salmon taken by Georgina Ballantine in 1922". That was certainly the largest salmon taken in British waters by rod and line but in June 1982 a 68½lb salmon was taken in a net trawled by a coracle on the River Usk.

The Usk fish was considered so remarkable that it was toured round the local towns by its captors until it fell to pieces.

Yours faithfully,
R. HANBURY TENISON,
Clytha Park,
Nr Abergavenny, Gwent.

From Mr N. G. Hanson

Sir, It's all very well for the intrepid fisherman to complain that he's "still aching after the fight". How does he suppose the poor catfish feels?

Yours sincerely,
N. GORDON HANSON,
4 West Street, Abbotshbury, Dorset,
November 21.

OBITUARIES

TERENCE DONOVAN

Terence Donovan, photographer, committed suicide on November 22 aged 60. He was born on September 14, 1936.

Terence Donovan was one of those East End lads who turned British photography upside down in the 1960s. Together with such friends and rivals as David Bailey, Brian Duffy and Terry O'Neill, he utterly transformed a discipline that until then had taken its tone from the civilised demeanour and refined sensibilities of a Norman Parkinson or Cecil Beaton. Scruffy, cheeky and confidently working-class, the new generation became the instant iconographers of Swinging London; and soon they themselves were among its most celebrated icons.

Donovan and his colleagues took fashion photography by storm, but their own success was based on something more solid than fashion. They were industrious, reliable and keen to succeed, and Donovan in particular was an excellent technician, fascinated by equipment and the mechanics of his craft.

"Bailey and I have worked out that there are about 450 things that can go wrong," he once observed. "But we must be doing something right, since there are about 25 million cameras in this country and only 50 or 60 of us who can use them."

His down-to-earth approach gave Donovan a versatility that many of his less durable Sixties subjects proved unable to match. He soon branched out into film work, building a successful career as a director of commercials and later of pop videos and even party political broadcasts; and he remained active as a portrait photographer — sought after by everyone from royalty to rock stars — right up to the time of his death.

The son of a lorry driver, Terence David Donovan grew up in Stepney in the East End of London. He left Fairfield Road School in his early teens to pursue a course at the London School of Engraving and Lithography and at 15 began work in the photographic department of a Fleet Street printers.

It laid the foundations for his darkroom expertise, but he liked to claim that it was only later, while on National Ser-

vice, that he gained his first experience with a camera, when he was able to augment his army pay with the production and sale of cheerful postcards with such titles as *Caterick by Moonlight*.

By the time he was 21 he was working as an assistant to the leading fashion photographer John French; four years later he had set up a studio of his own. When it came to photographing women — from models such as Jean Shrimpton to stars such as Julie Christie — Donovan thought he knew exactly what gave him and his friends the edge over some of their predecessors: robustly heterosexual to a man, they viewed their models like "tasty birds" they might want to go out with; and go out with them they often did. "For the first time ever, we photographed those high-fashion pictures in a sexy way."

In later years Donovan's assignments and commissions would include the engagement photographs of Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson, as well as official studies of Margaret Thatcher and the Princess of Wales; and his second wife was a former debutante. But he was always careful to preserve his links to the "reasonably rugged background" that had given his career a valuable early boost.

At the height of his Sixties fame, when he was living in a Mayfair flat next door to Claridge's, he made much of his Sunday trips to visit Aunt Doll (a charlady) and Uncle Bill up the Mile End Road; and to the end his speech remained a feast of cockney rhyming slang, with surreal flights of verbal fancy and a few outrageous obscenities thrown in. Men were forever "geezers" and "blokes", and women were always "birds".

Uninterested in clothes (which he acquired in identical sets) or holidays (which he refused to take), he spent his money on gadgets and new equipment. He once got rid of his possessions and lived for a while in his Rolls-Royce.

He would carry thousands of pounds in cash when filming, perhaps as much as £30,000 or its equivalent in local currency. This he would sometimes produce from his trouser-pocket and wave about to make things happen faster. He paid his film crews in cash on the day, and would endear himself to them still



further by wandering among them at times of stress, placing £20 or £50 notes in their pockets.

Donovan's other great interest in life was judo, about which he wrote a book. A black belt himself, he gave active financial support to the sport in Britain over a number of years. He was attracted to it not so much as a means of self-defence — he was 6ft 2in tall and weighed 16 stone and more — as by the philosophy behind it. "In my last life," he once joked, "I must have been a Jewish samurai."

A Japanese influence was

evident in the abstract paintings he exhibited at the Albemarle Gallery in 1990, and in the feature film, *Yellow Dog*, which he made in 1972. The latter, he confessed, "was only successful in that I pushed on when most people would have stopped. A bewilderment of offbeat homage to the great Japanese director Kurosawa, 'it became something of a cult in universities'."

Donovan's persistence was undoubtedly one of the reasons he succeeded. But so, too, was the fact that he and his Sixties colleagues had had nothing much to lose. The

worst that could have happened to them all, he explained, is that they would have had to go back to the East End, where they had been happy enough in the first place. "If you are in combat and you don't mind defeat, it makes you dangerous."

Terence Donovan's first marriage, to Janet Cohen in 1961, was dissolved. He is survived by a son from that marriage, now a successful rock musician; and by his second wife, Diana St Felix Dare, whom he married in 1970, and a son and daughter from his second marriage.

SORLEY MACLEAN

Sorley MacLean (Somhairre MacGill-Eain), poet, died yesterday aged 85. He was born on October 26, 1911.

SORLEY MACLEAN was regarded as the greatest Gaelic poet of the century. He gave new literary standing to a language which seemed close to extinction. His work was musical, resonant of a rich oral tradition; it mourned the Highland Clearances but also confronted the great issues of the 20th century.

MacLean was born on the small island of Raasay, over the sound from Skye. Three influences shaped his art and animated him until his death. The first was musical: he grew up in a world of Gaelic song and poetry; his father was a fine singer and an accomplished piper.

The second was historical. He heard the old Gaelic songs at his grandmother's knee and acquired a powerful "folk" memory. He told the stories of both Culloden and the Battles of the Braes of 1822 (when Skye crofters resisted eviction) as if he himself had been present.

The third influence was religious: he was brought up in the Free Presbyterian Church, which broke away from the Free Church in 1893 in protest against liberalised doctrine. Raasay was one of the secessionist centres but MacLean was always at pains to kill the myth of a closed and narrow Calvinist society: he drew a distinction between the communicants, a small minority, and the "adherents", who observed the sabbath dutifully enough but retained all the convivial habits of their ancestors.

He was educated at Portree High School and Edinburgh University, where he graduated in 1933 with an honours degree in English. He embraced socialism and denounced fascism; he would have fought in the Spanish Civil War had not his salary as a teacher been the chief support of the extended family dependent on his help to complete their education.

This always preyed a little on his mind. In later life he was at pains to correct an impression, given by one of his poems, that the love of a woman had kept him at home. The reasons were, he said, entirely economic; but he still had to suffer some snide barbs from the close-knit world of academic Celtic studies. When

Edinburgh City Corporation agreed to make up the salaries to teachers who went off to the war — he was by now head of English at Boroughmuir — he joined up and fought with the 8th Army in North Africa, where he was wounded at El Alamein.

He began to write poetry while at university, choosing to do so in Gaelic not only because he felt comfortable with its literary tradition but also as part of a specific effort to halt its decline. His first published work, produced with Robert Garioch, was *Seventeen Poems for Skye* in 1943 came *Dain do Eimhir*.



agus Dain Eile (Poems to Eimhir and Other Poems), mostly written in the Thirties. Some were addressed as love poems to the legendary Eimhir of the early Irish sagas but they dwelt also on political themes, contemplated the rise of fascism, and were unsparingly hostile to Christianity. MacLean's fellow poet, Iain Crichton Smith, an early translator of his work, has called this the greatest book of Scottish poetry this century, with the possible exception of Hugh MacDiarmid's *A Drunk Man Looks at the Thistle*, noting that the poems were unusual in the Gaelic tradition because of their European sensibility.

After the war MacLean returned to teaching. He became headmaster of Plockton High School, Wester Ross, in 1956, retiring to Braes in Skye in 1972. He was writer-in-residence at Edinburgh University, 1973-75.

His *Poems to Eimhir* were published in a translation by Crichton Smith in 1971. A major volume, *Reothairis* is *Contraigh* (Spring Tide and Neap Tide) appeared in 1977. His collected poems, *O*

Chaille gu Bearradh (From Wood to Ridge), were published by Carcanet in 1989 and won the MacVitie Prize. He brought out new work intermittently until his death.

Unlike MacDiarmid, whose early poetry he admired but whose political judgment he found wanting, MacLean was not a satirist nor a polemicist. His poems are incantatory, using repetition and the cadences of the Gaelic language to reinforce their strong emotional content. The poet is a witness and not a confessional, though the themes are often autobiographical.

The poems crystallise and celebrate the historical experience of the Scottish Gael. Many are laments for Highlanders brutally evicted in the Clearances. Others are love poems, or lyrical evocations of nature. The link between land and people is a drumbeat through the verses:

Great Raasay of the MacLeods...

Some critics felt that something was lost when the work was translated into English, a view MacLean shared, though he published his own translations. Yet he was also influenced by the metaphysical poets, whom he had studied at Edinburgh, and he reinvented the Gaelic literary tradition by enlarging it into a medium which could confront contemporary themes.

The Spanish Civil War continued as a painful memory, and his lament for three poets who lost their lives in the International Brigade — John Cornford, Julian Bell and Garcia Lorca — is one of his most moving works:

*What to us is the empire of Germany
or the empire of Britain
or the empire of France,
and every one of them
loathsome?*
*Bruth the grief is ours
in the sore frailty of mankind*

Sorley MacLean was a man of great kindness, keeping up the traditions of Highland hospitality in Skye. His moustache and tweeds gave him an Orwellian air and he told his stories in a slow, lilting cadence. He poured the island malt with liberality and liked nothing better than to show visitors the magical beauties of the islands and recount their intimate history.

He is survived by his wife Renee and two daughters.

STANLEY ROBINSON

Stanley Robinson, OBE, former head of The Times Parliamentary Staff, died on November 21 aged 93. He was born on October 27, 1903.



THE long service of Stanley Robinson to The Times, first as a verbatim gallery reporter and later as chief of a team of twelve, was matched only by his voluntary work to improve the facilities and conditions for all who worked in the Parliamentary Press Gallery. After joining the staff from the Press Association in 1935 he was successively honorary treasurer, 1937-39, honorary secretary, 1939-42, and chairman, 1942-43. He was thus in office when German bombs destroyed the House of Commons and when most of the reporters' writing rooms at the back of the gallery were damaged.

He and George Christ of The Daily Telegraph were the principal mediators between the Commons Rebuilding Select Committee and the newspaper and broadcasting reporters who demanded an expansion of gallery facilities. The select committee decided, on the evidence, that the gallery should be twice its former size, which meant that the old and cramped "Ladies Gallery", once dominated by ministers' wives, was eliminated. *Hansard* reporters also

had more space. In July 1943, Robinson was presented with an inscribed cigar box made from wood taken from the timbers of the bombed House in recognition of his efforts to extend reporters' facilities in the redesigned premises.

When he retired in October 1968 he was the doyen of the gallery journalists, a vicarious link with the Victorian gallery when lobby journalists wore top hats and frock coats, and copy was handwritten on "flimsies". He was appointed OBE in 1969.

Stanley Robinson was born in Scarborough. The son of a blacksmith, he was educated at Scarborough High School. As a boy, he helped in the blacksmith's retail shop, "learning the nuts and bolts",

as he put it. After working for a short period for an auctioneer he got a reporting job on the Scarborough Daily Post, later amalgamated with the Scarborough Evening News. Later he worked for the Liverpool Courier as reporter and sub-editor.

Coming to London in February 1925, he was a parliamentary reporter for Central News for four years and then with the Press Association for six years. His skill as a sub-editor and headline writer was much admired by Sir William Haley, Editor of The Times from 1952 to 1966, who would often "lift" a heading from the parliamentary page for the lead story on the bill (main news) page.

His tough subbing style derived from the days of the newspaper's rationing. Warfare was ruthlessly chopped. "The next reporter who uses the phrase 'as far as...' is concerned will get the sack", ran one warning on the notice board. He also had his light-headed moments; suddenly he would enliven a dull all-night sitting with a rendering of *Jesus wants me as a sunbeam*. And some weekends he would lead a group of gallery men on tours of the Surrey hills.

A stickler for accuracy, Robinson claimed that The Times parliamentary report had maintained standards not matched by other newspapers,

even by *Hansard*. "Some have objected that I was pedantic; precise, but I believe the most important thing I inherited from my father was the spirit of a craftsman," he told his friends at a retirement party, "and it is precision on which the strength of our report rests."

When other papers "went to bed", and *Hansard* closed down for the day, Times reporters remained on watch, and for an account of all dramatic incidents after 10.30pm the public turned to The Times. Ministers and others might want to change words uttered in haste or anger, but The Times refused. Even Churchill, on one occasion, cut no ice.

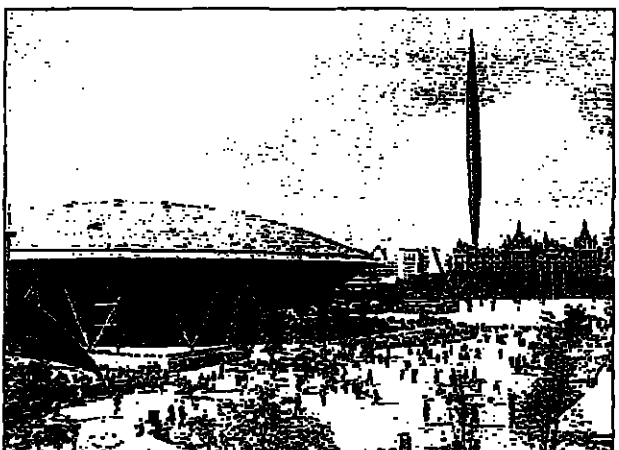
Active in Freemasonry most of his life, Stanley Robinson was initiated in 1930 in the Gallery Lodge, which counted many distinguished parliamentary journalists among its members. He was its Master in 1949, and took an active part in the 50th, 75th, and 100th anniversary celebrations within the lodge. He was also an officer of the Grand Lodge for 25 years. He was a member of the Newspaper Press Fund for 45 years, and of the NUJ from 1924 to 1949, when he transferred to the Institute of Journalists.

His wife, Edith, died in 1992, and he is survived by one daughter.

Ralph Tubbs, OBE, architect, died on November 23 aged 84. He was born on January 9, 1912.

AS AN architect Ralph Tubbs was most widely known as the designer of the Dome of Discovery, the vast circular building housing the scientific exhibits at the South Bank exhibition of the 1951 Festival of Britain. Until its demolition, after the exhibition closed, it was the largest dome in the world, with a diameter of 365 ft. Tubbs was also one of the trio of architects jointly responsible for planning the exhibition and for its overall design, along with Hugh Casson and Misha Black.

He was the son of Sydney W. Tubbs, and was educated at Mill Hill School and at the Architectural Association School in Bedford Square. On qualifying from there in 1936 he became a dedicated follower of the Modern movement in architecture, then newly established in England, but his work was never aggressive or extreme, as two buildings he designed in London a few years later bear witness: the Indian Students' Union in Fitzroy Square and Baden Powell House, Queen's Gate, the headquarters of the Boy Scouts Association. However, he proved his allegiance to the tenets of the Modern move-



Tubbs's Dome of Discovery on the South Bank, 1951

ment by becoming, in 1939, secretary of its main English supporting body, the Modern Architectural Research Group.

During the war Tubbs was prevented from serving in the Armed Forces by a lameness in one foot, from which he had suffered since childhood, but this did not stop him from joining the "night watch" at St Paul's Cathedral, the body of volunteers who patrolled the roofs of the cathedral throughout the war, looking out for and extinguishing incendiary bombs and the many small fires started by fragments of flaming debris from neighbouring buildings. Since the appeal for volunteers for this

duty at the outbreak of war was for men over forty (and, therefore, not liable for call-up) and Tubbs was one of only a few who were younger, he must have been at the time of his death one of the last surviving members of the St Paul's night watch.

During the war he also looked ahead towards the era of postwar reconstruction by compiling two Penguin books aimed at arousing the interest of the general public in the environment: *Living in Cities* (1942) and *The Englishman Builds* (1945).

In the years after the war Tubbs conducted a varied architectural practice. His buildings included the Grana-

da Television headquarters and studios in Manchester, the Institute of Education at Cambridge, halls of residence for University College London and housing in Harlow and Basildon new towns. His most prominent and substantial building was the new Charing Cross Hospital in Fulham Palace Road, Hammersmith, completed in 1978. (He subsequently designed the Jersey General Hospital in St Helier in the Channel Islands.)

While all this was going on, he managed to play an active part in the affairs of the architectural profession, serving as vice-president of the Architectural Association from 1945 to 1947, and on the council of the RIBA from 1944 to 1951. He became an associate of the Institute of Landscape Architects in 1942 and an FRIBA in 1952, being appointed OBE in the same year.

He had a studiously unobtrusive personality and — unusually for an architect — his chief non-professional interest was entomology. He was president of the British Entomological and Natural History Society in 1977 and vice-president of the Royal Entomological Society of London, 1982-84.

In 1946 he married Mary Taberner. She survives him, together with two sons and a daughter.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Simon Atkinson, Assistant Curate, Norton St Mary; to be Assistant Curate, Hardwood Holy Trinity (Durham).
The Rev Peter Baldwin, Team Rector, Great Ayckleye Team Ministry and Rural Dean of Sedgfield; to be Vicar, The Trindons and continue as Rural Dean of Sedgfield (Durham).
The Rev Gillian Beck, Parish Deacon, Monkwearmouth St Andrew; to be Parish Deacon (NSM), Epilepsy and Heaton le Hole (Durham).
The Rev Michael Beck, Vicar, Monkwearmouth St Andrew; to be Vicar, Epilepsy and Heaton le Hole and Rural Dean of Houghton le Spring (Durham).
The Rev Richard Bentley, Team Rector, East Ham w Upton Park St Albans (Chelmsford); to be Priest-in-charge, St Peter, Peterham, and Chaplain, HM Prison, Litchfield House (Southwark).
The Rev Jonathan Benwick, Assistant Curate, St Francis, Dudley (Worcester); to be Assistant Curate, St Mary, Broxfield and St Anne, Brookfield (Leam).

The Rev Alan Crossley, Chaplain, Princess Royal Hospital, Telford (Lichfield); to be Priest-in-charge, St Hilks, Blisborough (Blackburn).
The Rev Elizabeth Cummings, Chaplain, HM Prison, Stocken (Peterborough); to be Chaplain, HM Prison, Frankland (Durham).
The Rev David Eleanore, part-time Assistant Curate and Priest-in-charge, Batterdale (Carlisle); to be also Rural Dean of Penrith, same diocese.
The Rev Judith French, Curate, St Mark, Bilson (Coventry); to be Vicar, Charlbury w Shorthampton (Oxford).

The Rev Graham Friend, Rector, Mears Ashby and Hardwick and Sywell w Overstone (Peterborough); to be Priest-in-charge, Newbold w Barlow (Derby).
The Rev Peter Gaudson, Rector, Sturzy w Fordwich and Westbury w Hadden; to be also an Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral.
The Rev George Harris, Priest-in-charge, Lyons, Eastington Lane (Durham); to be Rector of the benefice.
The Rev Dr Richard Hines, Vice-Principal of the North Thames Ministerial Training Course and Lecturer at Oak Hill Theological College (London); to be Vicar, Huppisburgh, Walscot, Hemstead w Eccles and Lessingham, and Sea Palling w Watham (Norwich).
The Rev Simon Holland, Priest-in-charge, St Kenigern, Glasgow (Glasgow and Galloway); to be Rector, Aldingbourne, Barnham and Eastergate (Chichester).
The Rev Gordon Howells, Rector, Clymington and Yapton w Ford (Chichester); to be Priest-in-charge,

Rackheath and Selhouse and Diocesan Chaplain to the Deaf (Norwich).
The Rev Ian Jelley, formerly Priest-in-charge, Leam Lane St Andrew (Durham); to be part-time Chaplain to HM Prison, Holme House, Stockton on Tees, same diocese.
The Rev Bruce Leng, Rector, Thrybergh, Rotherham; to be also Warden for Pastoral Workers (Sheffield).
Prebendary Michael McGowan, Vicar, Christ Church, Barnet; to be Priest-in-charge, St Simon Zelotes, Chelsea, and St Saviour, Wallon Street (London).
Resignations and retirements
The Rev Charles Goring, Assistant Curate, Thornbury (Gloucester); resigned November 17.
Canon Maurice Green, Vicar, Swaffham, Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral, and Chaplain to Swaffham Cottage Hospital (Norwich); retired September 30, and is now Canon Emeritus.
The Rev Stanley Marriott, Rector, Newton Regis w Seckington, and Shuntington (Birmingham); to retire January 11.

INFALLIBLE COMEDY

Piccadilly Theatre

Barefoot in the Park, by Neil Simon

Corrie Bratter
Telephone Man
Peter Brainer
Mick Banks
Vivian Vassallo

Directed by RICHARD BENJAMIN

From Our Drama Critic

The rigorous American system of pre-Broadway trial productions comes in for frequent attack, but here, for once, is the kind of show it is supposed to produce: an infallible laughter-inducing mechanism, stripped of all inessential and all trace of personal authorship and with every gag and fragment of business tested out for reliable performance in the most adverse atmospheric conditions. Like other Broadway comedies we have seen in the West End, *Barefoot in the Park* is mainly out to gratify the middle-aged spectator. (You're still young at 50, it proclaims; and the young have a hard time making adjustments); but compared with such plays as *Mary, Mary*

ON THIS DAY

November 25, 1965

Barefoot in the Park is one of a string of successful plays written by the American Neil Simon. Among the others are The Odd Couple and The Sunshine Boys

and Any Wednesday. Neil Simon's comedy is a quartet for two couples, both ploughing through emotional vicissitudes to ultimate togetherness, but with none of the clamminess that usually accompanies this process. The first couple are a pair of newly-weds who move into a freezing fifth floor apartment which hastens their post-honeymoon disenchantment. The second consist of the bride's mother and a crazy Hungarian from the attic above who

takes charge of a second act party which finishes at an unspeakable Albanian restaurant on Staten Island and precipitates a crisis in relationships. Cunningly playing to his chosen audience Mr. Simon is careful to treat the middle-aged relationships as sheer fantasy and the young marriage as comically realistic. And it certainly is real. Mr Simon has picked on a familiar American type for the bride — a girl who switches between the extremes of passionate enthusiasm and passionate hatred, and who decides here that the marriage is on the rocks because she is a "doer" and her husband is only a "watcher". The row that follows this announcement is an exactly observed account of the irrepressible emotional cycle to which such temperaments are prone; and it is deftly translated into comedy so as to show up every move as a cliché. This duet is beautifully played by Daniel Massey, thick-voiced and goggle-eyed with frustration, and Marlo Thomas — a wiry mannish with a voice to shatter plate glass.

